



LEGO Leaguers Compete Tomorrow

Tomorrow, January 8, **Lake Zurich High School** will play host to 14 area teams competing for the chance to move on to the FIRST LEGO® League's "No Limits" Challenge statewide competition. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization founded to inspire interest in science and engineering among young people.

Many people have difficulty moving or walking, or trouble reading a distant sign or climbing stairs. In the 2004/2005 NO LIMITS Challenge, teams will explore how technology can assist people with different levels of physical ability. Using LEGO® Mindstorms™ robotics technology, teams of students will attempt to solve challenges inspired by the very same challenges faced by real design engineers. Over 6,000 teams worldwide are expected to participate and become pioneers of the future.

FIRST and The LEGO® Company created FIRST LEGO League based on their common belief that fun and learning shouldn't be separate, and that an inspired mind can accomplish anything it sets out to do. Each year a different game challenge is designed which gives kids the opportunity to solve real-world problems. Students, ages nine to fourteen, form teams to design, build and program robots using LEGO® Mindstorms™ Robotics Invention System™ technology. Working with team members, mentors and teachers, students apply engineering know-how, computer programming skills, and presentation techniques as they compete to best solve the annual challenge.

Teams from Japan, South Africa, Turkey and Mexico join this year's international challenge. Over 6,000 teams of 50,000 students worldwide will compete in local tournaments culminating in The FIRST LEGO League World Festival in Atlanta in April 2005.

"FIRST LEGO League unleashes potential. Kids learn just how much they can accomplish with science and technology. It shows them they can design and create a video game, not just play it", said Dean Kamen, Founder of FIRST.

Teams in this tournament will include those from Lake Zurich, Grayslake, Libertyville, Chicago, and Barrington. Students will design, build, and program their robot to independently perform a complex set of tasks. Additionally, teams will be measured by other factors including a research project, project presentation, and team spirit. "We had a very successful event last year and hope to continue to build on it with our second tournament" said Dave April, lead organizer of the tournament. "It is an excellent opportunity for young children to learn how to work as a team, and creatively accomplish a set of real world tasks." The tournament is a fun event and is open to the general public. Admission is free. More details about the event can be found at the ILFLL InSciTe website at <http://il.hightechkids.org>



About FIRST

FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, designs accessible and innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills, while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. FIRST sanctions two science competitions, the FIRST Robotics competition for high school students, and the FIRST LEGO League for middle school students. Through the FIRST Robotics competition, today more than 800 teams participate in North America in a total of 23 regional events and a championship event. For more information, visit these websites:

<http://il.hightechkids.org> (for information about Illinois events)

<http://www.firstlegoleague.org> (for information about FIRST Lego League International)

<http://www.usfirst.org> (for information about FIRST)