

WHO: Youth from Northern California
WHAT: Robotics tournament
WHERE: San Jose City College
WHEN: Saturday, Jan 8, 2005 from ~8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
WHY: It's action-packed fun to watch our youth and their robots.

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YOUNG PEOPLE AND ROBOTS KNOW NO LIMITS
-Annual FIRST LEGO® League Season Brings Competition to San Jose-

Bay Area children, ages 9 to 14, have risen to the FIRST LEGO® League's NO LIMITS Challenge to bring the dream of a barrier-free society to life. To successfully complete the NO LIMITS Challenge, teams of young people must build and program a robot that addresses the specific needs of people who face physical challenges in today's society. Challenge missions include, among others, serving a meal, picking a CD up off the floor, or reading signs. Through hands-on experience and working in teams, children have a chance to learn how science and technology can help people with varying levels of physical abilities in their everyday lives.

WHAT: Local children from SF Bay Area and beyond, representing 64 award-winning teams go head-to-head, putting 8 weeks of research, design and programming to the test in the annual FIRST LEGO League tournament to win honors and recognition. The tournament is free and open to the public.

WHEN: Saturday, January 8, 2005

WHERE: San Jose City College, 2100 Moorpark Avenue San Jose, CA 95128 Auxillary Gym

VISUALS:

- Amazing, custom-built LEGO robots come to life in fast-paced, timed competitions
- Hundreds of local students and their coaches putting designs and skills to the test
- On-site teamwork, troubleshooting, problem solving
- Assistive technology research projects displayed
- Energy and excitement as students, families, friends cheer for their local teams
- *Access to and Interviews with students, teachers, coaches, mentors and local sponsors available upon request.

This year, there were 6 qualifying Regional tournaments throughout the Northern California area. The best teams from each Regional tournament are advancing to the state tournament. A complete list of competing teams is available upon request.

About Playing At Learning

Based in the Northern California city of Fremont, Playing At Learning supports programs like FLL, that motivate young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. Playing At Learning, a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, is the FLL tournament partner for the Northern California area and is organizing the Northern California state tournament. To learn more, visit www.playingatlearning.org

About FIRST

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. With the support of many of the world's most well-known companies, the non-profit organization hosts the FIRST Robotics Competition for high school students and the FIRST LEGO League for children 9-14 years old. To learn more about FIRST, go to www.usfirst.org