



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Robots Return to Centennial Hall! Come and Cheer!**

*Southeast Alaska's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FIRST Lego League Tournament is this Sunday!*

Juneau, AK — On Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, fifteen teams from around Southeast Alaska will compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneau Robot Jamboree. This is a regional competition for the FIRST LEGO League. **FIRST** stands for: **F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition in **S**cience and **T**echnology. This competition is the culmination of eight weeks of hard work and mentorship by a dedicated team of volunteers. The FIRST Challenge for 2008 is “Climate Connections” and gives students a hands-on, minds-on, real-world experience which allows them to use their imaginations and creativity in combination with science and technology. Each team creates and presents an innovative solution to a problem caused by climate in their area. The team’s solution is communicated during a formal presentation to a set of judges. The teams also build and program Lego Robots to complete up to nineteen missions in a comprehensive tournament arena. The “matches” last two and half minutes and help to demonstrate the problem solving abilities of these boys and girls.

The FIRST LEGO League is an international program for 9 to 14 year-old children, created in a partnership between FIRST and The LEGO Group in 1998. Each September, FIRST LEGO League announces the annual challenge to teams, which engages them in authentic scientific research and hands-on robotics design. Using LEGO MINDSTORMS technologies and LEGO play materials, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program robots to solve real-world challenges. After eight intense weeks, the competition season culminates at these high-energy tournaments. For additional information, please visit their web page at <http://www.usfirst.org>

This year, tournament spectators will also have a chance to meet members of Juneau’s FIRST Tech Team, a High School robotics club launched at Thunder Mountain High School this year. These students have already started construction on their robot which is scheduled to compete in the statewide competition, hosted in Fairbanks this February.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneau Robot Jamboree will be held on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Centennial Hall from 10:30am-5:00pm. For a complete schedule and team listing, please visit [www.jedc.org](http://www.jedc.org) or contact Becca Parks at [rparks@jedc.org](mailto:rparks@jedc.org) or 523-2334 for more information. The tournament will be open to the public and spectators are highly encouraged to attend this exiting and fun-filled event.

Who: FIRST Lego League and JEDC  
What: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Juneau Robot Jamboree  
Where: Centennial Hall  
When: Sunday, NOV 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30am – 5:00pm  
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