

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Robots Rule @ Centennial Hall!

Skagway team takes home top honor!

Juneau, AK — Yesterday, fifteen teams from Juneau, Skagway and Hoonah met in Centennial Hall for the 2nd Annual Juneau Robot Jamboree. Teams spent six hours moving through the 4 elements of the competition: Robot Performance, Robot Design, a Research Presentation on problems posed by climate and a Teamwork Challenge. Students cheered as their robots met success and disaster on the competition table. In separate sessions, teams answered tough questions from judging panels that included professional engineers, University professors, nonprofit and education leaders.

The Jamboree is an official FIRST LEGO League Tournament hosted by the Juneau Economic Development Council. FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to getting kids excited about science and technology. 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.

The two Champion's Award winners are offered the opportunity to compete in the statewide FIRST LEGO League Tournament in Anchorage on January 17th, 2009. Winners at the statewide tournament will have the opportunity to compete at either the World Festival in Atlanta, GA or at the US Open to be held at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Special thanks to the team of volunteers that made the event a success, the coaches and mentors that dedicated so many hours to preparing their teams and to all of the students that participated and consistently inspired all of the adults involved.

Champion's Award

1st Place – Envirobotics-Blue (Skagway)
2nd Place – Meltdownz (Harborview
Elementary/Montessori Program)

Robot Performance

1st Place – Meltdownz (Harborview
Elementary/Montessori Program)
2nd Place – Envirobotics-Blue (Skagway City
School)

Robot Design

1st Place – Storm of Minds (IDEA Home School)
2nd Place – Elgoog (Dzantik'I Heeni MS)

Research Presentation

1st Place – Dryden Impact 2.0 (Floyd Dryden
MS)
2nd Place – Floyd Droids (Floyd Dryden MS)

Teamwork

1st Place – Envirobotics-Green (Skagway City
School)
2nd Place – Robotic Bears (Glacier Valley
Elementary)

Team Spirit

Auke Bay Climate Kids (Auke Bay Elementary)

Coach of the Year

Karl Klupar (Skagway City School)

Volunteer of the Year

Barbara Mitchell