

Let's start with the Winners of our **Core Values Awards**, which are Inspiration, Teamwork and Gracious Professionalism.

INSPIRATION AWARD

Our first award for the day is the **Inspiration Award**. This award celebrates a team that is empowered by their FLL experience and displays extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

This rookie team will cheer you up. Flying high on enthusiasm this team's spirit was second to none. These "birds of a feather" definitely do "flock together."

The winner of the Inspiration Award is:

Team #: 31255 Name: Fighting Falcons

Org/school: Family/community

TEAMWORK

Our next award is the **Teamwork Award**. Teamwork is critical to succeed in *FIRST* LEGO League and is the key ingredient in any team's success. This award recognizes a team that is able to accomplish more together than they could as individuals through shared goals, strong communication, effective problem solving and excellent time management. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

This team faced adversity that can break down teams who have been together for years, and they thrived. They split up their work efficiently, communicated effectively, and worked hard as a team. They made sure their team members all got to experience everything, including taking one team member from having no clue how to program to being the main programmer of their team.

The winner of the Teamwork Award is:

Team #: 6184 Name: Barry School

Org/school: Barry School

GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM

Our third award is the **Gracious Professionalism Award**. This award recognizes a team whose members show each other and other teams respect at all times. They recognize that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible on and off the playing field. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

This group of outstanding individuals are 100% the gracious professionals everyone should aim to be. They were kind and celebrated the strengths of everyone on the team, as well as shared their solutions to problems with their competition. Taking an innovative approach to the FIRST core values, this rookie team really helped us "C" the best example of Gracious Professionalism we saw today.

The winner of the Gracious Professionalism Award is:

Team #: 17613 Name: Harmony Elementary Robotics

Org/school: Harmony Elementary

Our second group of awards is for **Robot Design**

In this category, judges look for teams whose work combines robust mechanical design, excellent programming, and a sound strategy – all of which culminate in an innovative robot

MECHANICAL DESIGN

Our first award in this category is for **Mechanical Design**. This award recognizes a team that designs and develops a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient and highly capable of performing the challenge missions. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

The mechanical design award was given to the team that displayed a compact effective design. This hard hatted team's robot was capable of completing many missions through effective programming and modular attachments. This team showed impressive design skills and engineering acuity. To design a robot like this you'd have to be a maniac.

The winner of the Mechanical Design Award is:

Team #: 5457 Name: Meadowmere Mechanical Maniacs
Org/school: Meadowmere Elementary

PROGRAMMING

Our next award is for **Programming**. This award recognizes a team that utilizes outstanding programming principles, including clear, concise and reusable code that allows their robot to perform challenge missions autonomously and consistently. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

They talked things out in pseudo code before translating to the motherboard

Though keeping their team together sometimes took a bit of cardboard

Hammer, Flipper, Drop Kicker -- These Llamas programs couldn't be slicker.

The winner of the Programming Award is:

Team #: 20259 Name: Hydro Llamas

Org/school: Lakewood Middle

STRATEGY & INNOVATION

Our third Design Award is **Strategy & Innovation**. This award recognizes a team that uses solid engineering practices and a well-developed strategy to design and build an innovative, high performing robot. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

When planning a robot, some teams think big,
This team thinks really big.
They even teamed up with gravity to expand their reach.
They impressed us with their range of motion and imagination.

The winner of the Strategy & Innovation Award is:

Team #: 4331 Name: H.A.L.20

Org/school: St. Agnes Elementary

Our next group of Core awards is for the **Project**:

The purpose of the FLL project presentation is to show that individuals can make a difference by researching a problem, then contributing ideas and solutions to real-world issues. Your conclusions and solutions are the result of working hard to truly understand the magnitude of a problem through research and hands-on learning experiences. During your project planning, you used your teamwork abilities and talents to put together information, create a solution, and help others understand how your ideas could work.

RESEARCH

Our first project award is for **Research**. This award recognizes a team that utilizes diverse resources to formulate an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the problem they have identified. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

This team was "Glad" to work with professionals and natives of Africa to determine unique ways to filter and purify water. Their research led them to settle on a unique solution using native Moringa seeds. They experimented with the seeds, and were able to actually purify the water, which one of the team members drank! This extensive research culminated in the team writing a book for the people of Tanzania in their native language. Congratulations to Team 174865, S.W.A.T. Bots!

The winner of the Research Award is:

Team #: 17486 Name: SWAT Bots

Org/school: Family/Friends

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Our next project award is for **Innovative Solution**. Solutions to problems come in many different forms, limited only by the team's imagination. This award recognizes a team's solution that is exceptionally well-considered and creative, with good potential to solve the problem researched. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

This team's project addressed a focused, unique problem, and their solution is simple, inexpensive and implementable. They really ground up the competition. It was a clean flush. As an added bonus, the judges have enjoyed saying the word "fat berg" all day long.

The winner of the Innovative Solution Award is:

Team #: 605 Name: Mantis Shrimp Bots

Org/school: Neighborhood

PRESENTATION

Our third project award is for the **Presentation**. This award recognizes a team that effectively communicates the problem they have identified and their proposed solution to both the judges and other potential supporters. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

The judges filtered through the teams and this presentation came to the top. There were a lot of swanky projects but theirs was the groovy-est. With their recycling solution this team's future is not at all in jeopardy.

The winner of the Presentation Award is:

Team #: 6476 Name: Presentation Plumbers

Org/school: Our Lady of the Presentation (OLOP), Lee's Summit

ROBOT PERFORMANCE

Let's move on to the Robot Performance Award

Sometimes we measure success by a number only, but in this case, that number represents hours of strategizing and improving team members' mechanical and programming expertise. This award goes to the team whose overall package of robot design, programming, strategy, and teamwork helped it to achieve the competition goal of acquiring more points than any other team. Now let's hear what the referees had to say.

This team's robot used a base bot and a number of interchangeable shells to perform missions. They used a combination of motors and passive triggers to perform multiple missions with each launch. One attachment included a pneumatic system to transfer energy up an extendable arm. Putting it all together today they and their robot -- π-bard the 3rd -- compiled the highest score in the Kansas City region this year.

The winner of the Robot Performance Award is:

Team #: 17998 Name: Green Hole

Org/school: Family/Community

JUDGES AWARD

Many high-quality teams do not fit the mold for an existing award, but nonetheless deserve one. Some teams have a story that profoundly sets them apart in a unique way. Sometimes a given award is so close that the judges want to recognize a team's achievement. This award gives the judges the freedom to recognize the most remarkable team for which a standard award does not exist. Now let's hear what the judges had to say.

Sometimes, the solution to your problem can catch you by surprise, right under-foot, any day of the week. This young team rose to a variety of challenges today, but their greatest challenge yet will be to answer the question: how much water does it take to make a taco?

The winner of the Judge's Award is

Team #: 35722 Name: Taco Tuesday Robotics

Org/school: Community Team

GLOBAL INNOVATION AWARD

The *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Award is a competition designed to showcase the real-world, innovative solutions that *FIRST* LEGO League teams create as a result of their Project. This award encourages and assists teams to further develop solutions to real-world problems that demonstrate originality and have the potential to add significant value to the world.

The winner of the Global Innovation Award is

Team #: 17998 Name: Green Hole

Org/school: Family/Community

CHAMPIONS AWARD (1st, 2nd & 3rd place)

This most prestigious award goes to the team who, in the big picture, is the strongest in all of the categories combined. The Champion's Award winner is the total package – the embodiment of the *FIRST* LEGO League vision. The Champion's Award encompasses the 9 components of our 3 Core Awards of Robot Design, Project and Core Values plus Robot Performance. This team exemplifies the FLL Values and understands the true meaning of *FIRST* LEGO League.

The FLL experience is more than building robots or attending competitions. It begins with the robot, but most importantly, it is defined by how our future engineers and scientists form a team to accomplish a difficult goal. The program impacts each of them as individuals and as team members.

This award celebrates the ultimate success of the *FIRST* mission and FLL Values. It measures how these young people inspire others about the accessibility and excitement of science, technology, and engineering while demonstrating respect, encouragement, and continued gracious professionalism.

Today we are awarding a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Champion's Award winner. Our top team will qualify for, and is invited to the 2018 *FIRST* World Festival, held in St. Louis, Missouri. (*pause for effect*)

Now let's hear what our judges had to say about our 3rd place Champion's Award winner:

This team was a champion in their neighborhood, by effectively working together even with siblings on the team. You don't have to see it to believe how exceptional this team really is. By using all the skills they Showed everyone, that they could Piece together a "Lego" Championship.

The 3rd place Champion's Award winner is: 7868 Show-Me Legos

Team #: 7868 Name: Show-Me Legos

Org/school: Family/Community

Now let's hear what our judges had to say about our 2nd place Champion's Award winner:

A highly colorful team that locks their attachments in,
Uses a gyro sensor at the right place to win
There is no lack of creativity and quality
when the team uses a sensor just for personality
The team itself has a killer name
And with black hats rises to its fame

The 2nd place Champion's Award winner is:
Team #: 31163 Name: Lawrence Lego Mafia
Org/school: Raintree Montessori School

It's now time to find out our Champion's Award winner – Let's hear what the judges had to say:

This team hits a hole in one when it comes to keeping our planet green. After researching water usage and meticulously documenting their activities and search, this team created an app that will have a ripple effect throughout our country...

The Champion's Award winner of the Greater Kansas City Regional is:

Team #: 17998 Name: Greenhole

Org/school: Family/Community

