



Raider Robotix

The North Brunswick Twp. High School Robotics Team

www.raiderrobotix.org

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Advisor Wayne Cokeley

For immediate release –

NBTHS Raider Robotix qualifies for *FIRST World Championship* being held in St. Louis

April 12, 2017, North Brunswick, NJ: Raider Robotix – FRC Team 25 will be flying to St. Louis for the *FIRST World Championship* being held April 27 - 29 at the America's Center Dome in St. Louis, MO. Over the past weekend, Raider Robotix participated at the *Mid Atlantic Robotics (MAR) District Championship*.

At the MAR District Championship, during an opening ceremony, *FIRST* President, Don Bossi, who happened to stay at the same hotel as the team, casually recognized Raider Robotix for their "gracious professionalism," which made the mentors and teachers extremely proud of their students.

During alliance selections, Team 25 was selected by Team 1923 - The MidKnight Inventors, and then the alliance chose Team 75 - RoboRaiders to round out the alliance. The alliance was eliminated from the playoff tournament during the quarterfinals, however, Raider Robotix earned enough ranking points during the 2017 season to qualify to participate at the World Championship event.

In the 2017 *FIRST* robotics season, Raider Robotix won two district events. At the Mount Olive event, Raider Robotix teamed with Team 1923 - The MidKnight Inventors from Plainsboro, NJ, and The T.E.S.T. Team 303 from Bridgewater, NJ. At the Montgomery event, Raider Robotix aligned with RoboRaiders - Team 75, Hillsborough, NJ and again with Team 1923 - The MidKnight Inventors, Plainsboro, NJ.

Raider Robotix previously won the World Championship in 2012 and hopes they will be adding to the two winner blue banners they already earned this season.

The 2017 challenge, *FIRST STEAMWORKSSM*, is a steampunk-themed game. Two alliances of three teams each compete in a match. Each team participates in 12 qualification matches for which the alliances are algorithmically scheduled and vary from match to match. Teams are then ranked based on their qualification round performance before the top eight seeds draft a permanent alliance with which they compete in an elimination playoff tournament.

All *FIRST* events are free and open to the public.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) Kick-Off, which revealed the *FIRST STEAMWORKSSM* challenge and details, was held at Montgomery High School on Saturday, January 7, 2017 and marked the start of the 2017 FRC season. After the reveal, robotics teams worldwide began planning, building, and testing their robots over a six-week period. Robots were then placed into a bag and sealed until the individual team's first competition. The game features two alliances of three robots each, which try to place balls, representing fuel, into "boilers" and gears onto an "airship." For the first time in FRC history, there are human players on the playing field, inside



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the airship structure. Human players pull up the gears and place them on the airship. The teams earn points for scoring fuel and powering rotors as they prepare their airship for take-off. Even more points are earned for each robot that successfully climbs a rope to “board” and illuminate a light on the airship.

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More about Raider Robotix-FRC Team 25: Founded twenty-one years ago in 1996 at North Brunswick Township High School, NJ, this team has been a two-time world champion during the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) in 2000 and 2012. FRC Team 25 has competed in District and Regional matches and has traveled to the World Championships each year since its founding. Raider Robotix is comprised of NBTHS students and mentored by adult volunteers. This highly competitive FRC Championship winning team participated in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2014 and has been featured on television, in books, and news articles. Raider Robotix has secured sponsorship from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Picatinny Arsenal-US Department of Defense, CIMANETWORK, ABBE Lumber, Eastern Metal Supply, North Brunswick Township High School and the Raider Robotix Parent & Mentor Association, Inc., for the 2017 season. The team continues with fundraising efforts and welcomes inquiries from prospective sponsors.

www.raiderrobotix.org www.facebook.com/RaiderRobotix

More about FIRST and STEAMWORKS: More than 3,000 teams comprised of over 78,000 students worldwide will compete in the FIRST STEAMWORKSSM game in 2017. FIRST Robotics combines the excitement of sport along with the rigors of science and technology. High school student teams comprising kids ages 14-18 in grades 9-12 build and program a robot in six weeks’ time to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. The teams not only sharpen their teamwork skills, but they raise funds and design a team “brand.” Team members come away with an experience that’s as close to real-world business and engineering as a high school student can get. Over a seven week period, these high school teams compete as family and friends cheer from the stands at over 120 multi-day events worldwide. All this leads up to the 2017 “FIRST” Championship at the Edward Jones Dome to be held April 26 – 29, 2017 in St. Louis, MO. FIRST revealed the new season’s game, FIRST STEAMWORKSSM, on January 7, 2017. During all FIRST events, the public is invited to attend at no charge.

FIRST Mid-Atlantic District - www.midatlanticrobotics.com

FIRST - www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc



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Photographs included

By Arushi Bhatia



IMG_4829

Adam Seidman (center), drives the robot for Team 25.



IMG_4547

Team 25's robot hangs after climbing a rope to finish a match.



IMG_4839

Team 25's drive team with robot.



IMG_4517

Team 25 drive team.

By Karen Ramsden-Zahler



IMG_4836

View of Team 25's pit area in between matches. The pit crew works on the robot.