



Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc.
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NEWS

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FOR RELEASE: Immediately

AREA GIRL SCOUT ROBOTICS TEAMS WIPING OUT THE COMPETITION!

Pleasantville, NY — Danger, Will Robinson! Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson's three robotics teams have been competing in tournaments throughout the tri-state area and all are doing amazingly well in this "varsity sport for the mind".

Techno Chix

One of the most exciting victories has involved our older girl team, the **Techno Chix** (seven high school-age Girl Scouts from Briarcliff Manor, North Salem, Peekskill, and White Plains), who won the **top prize** – the Inspire Award – at the multi-state regional tournament held on February 7 at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. Their next stop is the **FIRST world championship competition** in Atlanta, April 16-18. (FIRST stands for **F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology — visit the FIRST website at www.usfirst.org.)

Here's what FIRST says about the Inspire Award: "The Inspire Award is the most prestigious First Tech Challenge (FTC) award, and is given to the team that truly embodies the 'challenge' of the FTC program. The team that receives this award is chosen by the judges as having best represented a role model FIRST Tech Challenge Team. They are a top contender for all other judging categories and are a strong competitor on the field. The Inspire Award winner is an inspiration to other teams, acting with gracious professionalism both on and off the playing field. This team understands how to communicate their experiences and knowledge to other teams, sponsors, and the judges."

Face Off, the theme of this year's robotics challenge, required the girls to design, build and program a robot to score points on a 12'x12' game field filled with three-dimensional obstacles. But robotics is only part of the challenge which encourages teams to compete with "gracious professionalism," a term coined by Woodie Flowers, FIRST national advisor and Pappalardo professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to concentrating on building for success at competitions, the team mentors rookie teams, holds practice scrimmages and workshops to help other teams and themselves test out their robots in preparation for the larger competitions and holds open houses and exhibitions targeted at Girl Scouts of all ages to encourage participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs including FIRST competitions.

Techno Girls and Green Nerds

Our **Techno Girls** (six girls, ages 9-14, from Bedford, Chappaqua, North Salem, Ossining, Pound Ridge, and White Plains) won first place in research, third place overall and a Team Spirit Award

More

Girl Scout Robotics Teams, add 1111

at the FIRST Lego regional competition at Mahopac High School on January 24. On Saturday, February 14, our **Green Nerds** (five girls, ages 9-14, from Hopewell Junction, Pleasant Valley and Wappingers Falls) accumulated the highest robot score and received a trophy for highest scoring team in all categories at the qualifying tournament at Union Vale Middle School in Dutchess County. Both teams will compete in the Hudson Valley FIRST Lego League championship tournament at Dutchess Community College, on Saturday, February 28.

All competitions are open to the public and free of charge. If you have any additional questions about the teams or events, contact JoAnn Rerek at rerek@optonline.net.

About Girl Scouting

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. serves 34,000 girls and 15,000 adult volunteers throughout seven counties in southeastern New York State: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. Its central administrative office is in Pleasantville, with regional offices in Middletown, New City, Pleasantville, and Poughkeepsie.

Founded in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strives to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Accordingly, GSUSA continues to be the world's pre-eminent organization for, and leading authority on, girls, with a membership of more than 3.7 million girls and adults.

For information about joining, volunteering, or making a donation to Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., contact 914.747.3080 or visit www.girlscoutshh.org.