

Huntington Robotics team wins state title

The Huntington County 4-H Robotics Team 1501 T.H.R.U.S.T. are Indiana Champions and advanced to the FIRST Championships in Houston, Texas.

Huntington County 4-H Robotics won their first State Championship in 20 years as a team on April 7.

Team T.H.R.U.S.T. with Harrison Boiler Robotics from West Lafayette and suPURDUEper

Robotics from Indianapolis advanced from the preliminaries as the fifth seed in a double elimination tournament for the state championship.

The final went to a tie breaker third match that the team won 134 - 109.

As state champions the 3-team alliance earns an automatic spot in the FIRST Championship in

Houston.

Hosted by FIRST, FIRST Championship is a culminating, international event for our youth robotics competition season and an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM) for our community as we prepare young people for the future.

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The Huntington County 4-H Robotics Team 1501 T.H.R.U.S.T. show off their championship banner. Photo provided

Robotics champions

The 2024 FIRST Championship is presented by BAE Systems.

Starting with the game announcement on January 6, 2024, teams have been designing, prototyping, fabricating, manufacturing, and programming 125-pound robots that compete in a basketball court-sized field.

This year's game, Crescendo Presented by HASS involves collecting "notes" and placing them in different locations on the field.

To end the game, the robot is then

required to climb a chain onto the "stage".

Crescendo is a music-themed game.

The robot and imagery for the team worked off this theme naming the robot Thunderstruck, using speakers and guitars in their design elements and even

distributing guitar picks with a team logo and Spotify link to the song Thunderstruck.

FIRST Championship involves over 600 teams from around

the world competing in a 3-day competition in Houston.

This is the eighth time Huntington County 4-H Robotics has advanced to the World Championship and their first State Championship.

Their best finish was in 2016 when they won the Archimedes Division and finished as a Top 8 team in the world.

Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.

FIRST Robotics

Competition is the ultimate Sport for the Mind.

High-school student participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have."

Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team 'brand,' hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors.

It's as close to

real-world engineering as a student can get.

Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.

Students participating in FIRST are eligible to apply for over \$80 million dollars in scholarships from leading universities, colleges, and companies.

Since its beginning, FIRST has significantly improved students' attitudes towards math, science, graphic design, marketing, and teamwork.

Students who participate show increased interest in pursuing intern-

ship and employment opportunities in science and engineering.

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