

# MN FIRST LEGO League 2011/2012 State Award Winners

## *High Tech Kids' Founders Award*

<b>Award Comment and Winner</b>	<p>High Tech Kid's Founders Award is an individual award given to someone who creates and builds the organization of High Tech Kids. There are many volunteers at High Tech Kids, but this award is meant to recognize the significant contributions of an individual that has led to growing and maintaining the legacy of the High Tech Kid's mission.</p> <p>High Tech Kids is an organization that works with many wonderful volunteers: coaches, tournament directors, mentors, tournament officials, etc. There is one that stands out in deserving of this first-time High Tech Kids Founders Award. This volunteer has been a part of our organization for over 13 years. He has fulfilled each and every volunteer role with amazing dedication and has put forth invaluable amounts of work that have helped build this program into what it is today.</p> <p>He is not only a wonderful person to be around but has an infectious spirit that inspires others to do and be better. He has been a ref, a head ref, judged every category, been a head judge, a tournament director, volunteer coordinator, helps run our trainings, and has assumed the role as head official for the past 4 seasons. Please stand and give a huge round of applause to Norm Tiedemann.</p>

## ***High Tech Kids' Special Volunteer Award***

<b>Comments</b>	We would like to recognize a special group of former FIRST LEGO Leaguers this year. From loading and unloading the many practice tables, for judging, for refereeing, for emceeing at multiple tournaments and for mentoring two FLL teams and organizing a new regional tournament, you name it, this particular group of kids has helped in numerous ways this past 2011/2012 season. They are a former FLL team and a current FTC team and we would like to acknowledge their dedication to High Tech Kids and building the FIRST LEGO League in Minnesota.
<b>Award Winner</b>	The young men and women from Fish in the Boat  Colton Mehlhoff Crystal Huynh Merissa McDowell Cully Furlong Cassady Rotthoff Erin Mitchell Jeremy Koletar

## ***Coaches Award***

<b>Comments</b>	<p>This award is given to someone who has shown extraordinary leadership in the coaching ranks. Someone who has had great influence on their team members, on other coaches, and in their community.</p> <p>Our award winner this year was nominated by several coaches. One of them saying: He has done a lot to advance the league and to create opportunities for kids to participate in this activity, which not only fosters skills, but develops: confidence, teamwork skills, planning skills, and the ability to “figure it out”. He has coached his own FLL team, mentored other FLL teams and was also tournament director this year. He is passionate about lego league, and he is tireless in his efforts to help the kids and the league.</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	The winner is: Norton Lam

## ***Community Volunteer Award***

	<p>This year we would like to honor two people who have grown FLL in their region as well as in Minnesota. These two individuals started coaching teams, and have since then mentored new teams, supported coaches and tournament directors, judged, set-up for tournaments, and are current tournament directors. They have also mentored new tournament directors. They are an inspiration to their community and have helped expand this program to many families in the Elk River area. I believe there are 3 teams here today because of their efforts - TThanks for all you do!</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Steve Vrchota and Pat Manning

## ***Officials' Award***

<b>Comments</b>	<p>This award is given to someone who has given above and beyond in judging or refereeing High Tech Kids events. We have many volunteers who have worked many years in the program. I could easily give out 10 of these awards every year.</p> <p>This year two official share the award as they both personify what makes great officials: Volunteers who are conscientious about their subject and most importantly, works hard with each and every team in a friendly but inquisitive and questioning manner. Putting the teams at ease, while pushing them to give their best. Although they have only been judging since 2008, they are available almost every weekend and have worked both Saturday and Sunday a couple of times, when I really needed judges (as long as it doesn't conflict with their other activity - Scottish Country Dancing).</p> <p>This year's award goes to:</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Stuart and Janet McKernan

## **Leadership Award**

<b>Comments</b>	<p>OK – Last amongst the adults - The HTK Leadership Award is kind of the Championship award for volunteers - High Tech Kids only works because of the huge amount of work put in by volunteers and even more so by key volunteers.</p> <p>This award is given to someone who contributes long-term leadership and is a vital part of the overall MN FLL operations. This year the award goes to an official that has volunteered with HTK for all 14 seasons it has been going in Minnesota – he was involved with the pilot program back in 1999 and every year since. He has had just about every job there is. And although he often appears in front of the crowd, he is really being honored for his work behind the scenes. He is the person who makes the scoring and awards work at state –</p> <p>I often say “State tournament could happen without me, but I truly believe it would not run as smoothly and we’d probably be doing this ceremony about 8:00 at night if this person were not here.” For his work as head judge, and particularly his continued vital assistance at state - I would like to thank and honor:</p>
<b>Award Winner</b>	Eric Engstrom

## ***Young Mentor Award***

<b>Young Mentor</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	<p>This year's finalists are:</p> <p>Dan Johnson Erin Mitchell Brianna Cunniff Anthony Koch Colton Mehlhoff Ines Siepmann Ryan Hedlund Dan Carey Laura Serier Geoffrey Bissen</p>
<b>Honorable Mention</b>	Geoffery Bissen
<b>Winner</b>	Colton Mehlhoff

## ***Research Award***

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	13320 - CentralTech 9159 - Imaginative Orange Pi Guy 2571 - TechnoTigers 8570 - American Germ-men and Ella
<b>Winner</b>	13320 - CentralTech
<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	7993 - Surfing Elements 2637 - The Munsters 7219 - The Lego Maniacs
<b>Winner</b>	2637 - The Munsters

## ***Innovative Solution Award***

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	9159 - Imaginative Orange Pi Guys 2707 - SIROUS-ETLA: Spider Inhaling Rodents of Unusual Size for the Ethical Treatment of Lego Animals 8570 - American Germ-men and Ella 3569 - Samonella Sapphires
<b>Winner</b>	8570 - American Germ-men and Ella
<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	6987 - Lego Action Figures 7993 - Surfing Elements 2637 - The Munsters
<b>Winner</b>	7993 - Surfing Elements

## ***Creative Presentation Award***

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	1731 - The Brick Bombers 5753 - The Robot Squad 6594 - Blue Elephants 13234 - Robo Saints
<b>Winner</b>	1731 - The Brick Bombers
<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	4225 - Black Knights 6595 - Mindstorm Maniacs 8769 - The Things
<b>Winner</b>	8769 - The Things

## ***Robot Performance Award***

<b>Division 1</b>	
	6515 - Friendly Intergalactic Robot Experts (FIRE)  Very impressive score: 192!

<b>Division 2</b>	
	4577 - The Fizz  Massive score of 227!

## ***Team Work Award***

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	9740 - Armatage Bruised Bananas 49 - Ponytail Posse 6680 - G. O. Nutz 14099 - Chelsea Apple Doctors
<b>Winner</b>	49 - Ponytail Posse
<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	5848 - Minnesota Girls & Joe 4225 - Black Knights 8769 - The Things
<b>Winner</b>	4225 - Black Knights

## ***Sportsmanship/Gracious Professionalism Award***

<b>Div 1</b>	
<b>Reason</b>	A rookie team nominated this team. This experienced team helped the rookie team with expectations and description of how the whole competition works.
<b>Winner</b>	6218 – Dancing Ducks
<b>Div 2</b>	
<b>Reason</b>	This team was also extremely helpful to a rookie team sitting next to them in the pits – and even offered to mentor them next year.
<b>Winner</b>	321 - Robo Nuts

## ***Team Spirit***

The Team Spirit award is presented to the team best demonstrating extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit both within their own team and in their support and encouragement of fellow teams. Unlike the other awards, the Team Spirit award is selected by the **referees** who observe the spirit shown by all teams in the performance arena, cheering on their teams and robots.

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Winner</b>	3560 – The Chocolate Gummi Bears
<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Winner</b>	13442 – The Sugars

## Technical Awards

### Mechanical Design Award

Division 1	
<b>Finalists</b>	3924 - got lego? 10448 - Rambots 1731 - The Brick Bombers 6515 - Friendly Intergalactic Robot Experts (FIRE)
<b>Winner</b>	6515 - Friendly Intergalactic Robot Experts (FIRE)
Division 2	
<b>Finalists</b>	321 - Robo Nuts 807 - Cavemen 4577 - The Fizz
<b>Winner</b>	4577 - The Fizz

### Strategy and Innovation Award

Division 1	
<b>Finalists</b>	8570 - American Germ-men and Ella 6594 - Blue Elephants 3924 - got lego? 9734 - Lego Spaghetti-O's
<b>Winner</b>	3924 - got lego?
Division 2	
<b>Finalists</b>	8932 - Rochester Brainstormers 8769 - The Things 4227 - The Free Birds that ate a Fish Flavored Tomato...
<b>Winner</b>	8932 - Rochester Brainstormers

## Programming Award

Division 1	
<b>Finalists</b>	6594 - Blue Elephants 8570 - American Germ-men and Ella 9734 - Lego Spaghetti-O's 3924 - got lego?
<b>Winner</b>	6594 - Blue Elephants
Division 2	
<b>Finalists</b>	8769 - The Things 4227 - The Free Birds that ate a Fish Flavored Tomato... 4577 - The Fizz
<b>Winner</b>	8769 - The Things

## Robot Head to Head Awards

Division 1	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	6594 - Blue Elephants Score: 109.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	3924 - got lego? Score: 162.

Division 2	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	4227 – The Free Birds that ate a Fish Flavor Tomato Score 206
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	4577 – The Fizz Score 231

## Judges' Award

Reason		Winner	
<b>Reason</b>	<p>Very technically adept team with great programming and lots of innovative design ideas, including dual gearboxes, one-way doors, and gravity assisted arms.</p> <p>Plus a cool, if a bit long name...</p>	<b>Winner</b>	4227 - The Free Birds that ate a Fish Flavored Tomato...
<b>Reason</b>	<p>A highly ranked, kid-driven team who consistently demonstrated the overall FIRST values.</p> <p>This team's name is making me hungry!</p>	<b>Winner</b>	8082 – Refrigerator Raiders
<b>Reason</b>	<p>Overall second in their division and strong competitor in many categories, and a well rounded team with lots of energy.</p> <p>We could all learn from this team!</p>	<b>Winner</b>	6680 – G.O. Nutz
<b>Reason</b>	<p>Widely recognized by both judges and referees alike as having great teamwork as well as showing very high energy team-sprit.</p> <p>Plus, they have great fans and hats!</p>	<b>Winner</b>	7426 – Green Girls

## ***The Champion's Award***

**This year the Division I Championship team has an invitation to represent Minnesota at the LEGOLAND North American Open in California May 18-20, 2012.**

<b>Division 1</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	5753 - The Robot Squad 8082 - Refrigerator Raiders 49 - Ponytail Posse 1731 - The Brick Bombers 6680 - G. O. Nutz
<b>Winner</b>	5753 - The Robot Squad

**The Division II winning team has an invitation to represent Minnesota at the 2012 World Open in Florida May 4-6, 2012.**

<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Finalists</b>	807 - Cavemen 4577 - The Fizz 8769 - The Things
<b>Winner</b>	807 - Cavemens

**With that – I'd like to thank you all for coming, participating and celebrating with us.**