

MN FIRST LEGO League 2008/09 State Award Winners

Divison 2 - Sunday

INSciTE Special Volunteer Award

Special Leadership in Tournament Operations Award	
Comments	The other winner started as a volunteer helping with the computers at tournaments. But over the years, he has completely taken over this very complex task of managing the complete system, all the hardware, training and scheduling volunteers, and the software maintenance. Try to imagine doing your computer work in a room with 5 different officials on your back asking "Is it done yet?" and 200 screaming kids. Then you can appreciate why we all depend on Dan!
Award Winner	Dan Churchill
Comments	This year's Special Volunteer award goes to a couple of gentlemen who have been invaluable in tournament operations. MN FLL tournaments are known throughout the world for being extremely well executed. These two, familiar faces behind the curtains, have played a big role in creating that reputation. One has designed and operated the audio/video system for every state tournament we have ever done, including our original pilot in 1999 and the huge HTK Open event at Williams Arena. And he has done so calmly, professionally and with a smile!
Award Winner	Rick Skildum

Leadership in Coaching Award	
Comments	Good coaches not only make their team better, but help other teams as well. This coach has started a local robotics club and has helped develop a strong FLL presence in her community. She is running a summer robotics program this coming June. She has also been a big help behind the scenes to the overall program, including helping define collaboration techniques for the exchange program. And started this year judging for tournaments as well.
Award Winner	Deb Johnson, St. Peter

Local Leadership Award	
Comments	Some schools have really adopted FLL. This school is a role model for how a science and technology program can be made as important to a school's culture as a sports team. Many people are involved in this school, we want to recognize one of the key players, who as board chairman of the school, represents many volunteers.
Award Winner	Kemal Balioglu of Al-Amal

Leadership in Officiating Award	
Comments	We have many dedicated officials. Some are exceptional in their dedication. No matter what, this couple is willing to officiate extra days and travel any distance to help in a pinch. This year, as my first year as head official, I have really appreciated this couple. They can judge any category and their past coaching experience helps to make them great judges.
Award Winner	Rich and Barb Kramer

Leadership in Competition Award	
Comments	This long time tournament director is also a calm and steady person behind the scenes. He is always willing to help other tournaments and teams, he coaches and directs the St. Louis Park event. And he flawlessly managed a big complex part of the HTK Open last May.
Award Winner	Mike Spitzak

INSciTE Leadership Award	
Comments	INSciTE only works because of the huge amount of work put in by key volunteers. This year's winner has long been a key contributor, helping out in every area of tournaments, from directing a tournament to being an official and coach. Volunteering on every level from hauling tables around and being on the INSciTE board of directors. And always with a smile on his face!
Award Winner	Dan Carlson

Young Mentor Award

The Young Mentor award is presented to the outstanding young mentor of a Lego League team. The award is open to students 18 and under. Judges are looking for evidence of an effective mentoring "style", skills in transmitting and fostering cognitive social and social skills, and emotional growth and support. The winner also receives a \$250 college scholarship from INSciTE.

Young Mentor	
Finalists	TJ Reiersen Amy Zhang
Winner	Amy Zhang
Quote about winner	<p>We had 2 very strong candidates for this award, making the selection extremely difficult. The candidates were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A veteran to the program who sought out this experience once she had outgrown FLL- A first time mentor to FLL, mentoring 2 middle school teams <p>Both students were highly active in their high schools and communities, and both aspire to continue their education in the engineering field.</p> <p>In the end, we had to pick one: The winner of this year's young mentor award is an individual who shows true passion and excitement for the program and who was open to what the kids needed over what needed to be done. Her dream is to make a real impact on the world and she feels she can achieve this by inspiring other kids.</p>

Research Awards

Research Quality Award

The Research Quality Award is presented to the team that best develops an in-depth and thorough understanding of the Research Challenge. They have the best explanation of the teams' point of view and solution to the Research Challenge.

Division 2	
Finalists	1657 – The Weather Warriors 7641 – Ice Capz 655 – The Lost Boys
Winner	7641 – Ice Capz

Innovative Solution Award

The Innovative Solution Award is presented to the team that has the most thought provoking and innovative resolution to the research challenge assignment. The judges are not only looking for creative ideas, but an examination of all the issues required to implement the solution.

Division 2	
Finalists	784 – Techno Travelers 655 – The Lost Boys 1138 – The Things
Reason	This team presented a very innovative solution for a self-deploying net, automatically activated by a severe hail storm warning to protect house roofs. This solution stretched architectural and structural designs. They thought through many of the design criteria that need to be considered.
Winner	655 – The Lost Boys

Research Awards (cont.)

Creative Presentation Award

The Creative Presentation Award is presented to the team with the most imaginative and creative presentation demonstrating the teams' research and solution to the Research Challenge Assignment.

Division 2	
Finalists	4020 – The Sleep Over Squad 6213 – Robo Sabres 1606- Hydrogen Peroxide
Reason	This team took the obvious connection between tornadoes and the wizard of oz and made their presentation not only informative but fun and enjoyable for all.
Winner	4020 – The Sleep Over Squad

Robot Performance Award

The Robot performance awards are presented to the top 3 teams in the head to head rounds. These teams survived the tough competition in these afternoon matches and came out on top.

Division 2	
3rd Place	655 – The Lost Boys
2nd Place	606 – Hydrogen Peroxide
1st Place	3756 – Ah Ha

Team Work Award

The teamwork award is presented to the team that best exemplifies the meaning of teamwork. Teamwork is the key to a successful team but very hard to do. It's important to recognize teams that do it well. Teamwork is judged by judges in the presentation area and by judges that observe the team in action in other areas.

Division 2	
Finalists	3756 – Ah Ha 1606 – Hydrogen Peroxide 784 – Techno Travelers
Winner	3756 – Ah Ha

Team Spirit Award

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. 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.

Division 2	
Winner	6213 – Robo Sabres

Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award is presented the teams best showing good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship occurs when teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials treat each other with respect. This may be for a specific incident or an overall attitude of great sportsmanship.

Div 2	
Reason	General good team, helpful to many teams here today.
Winner	1655 – Flying Pigs

Technical Awards

Quality Design Award

The Quality Design Award is presented to the team whose understanding and application of sound mechanical principles produces the most solid, predictable, and dependable design.

Division 2	
Finalists	1606 – Hydrogen Peroxide 784 – Techno Travelers 3756 – Ah Ha
Winner	1606 – Hydrogen Peroxide

Innovative Design Award

The Innovative Design Award is presented the team that best demonstrates its ability to use a creative design, component or unique strategy of play when solving the Challenge missions.

Division 2	
Finalists	6213 – Robo Sabres 4020 – The Sleep Over Squad 3752 – Fish in the Boat
Reason	For their unique implementation of the transmission, with an original modular design and fail-safe programming.
Winner	3752 – Fish in the Boat

Technical Awards (cont.)

Programming Award

The Programming Award is presented to the team best demonstrating an in-depth understanding of sound programming principles. The programs written by the teams will enable the robot to consistently complete complex tasks. Programming robots is a notoriously difficult problem and this award recognizes teams that excelled at this task.

Division 2	
Finalists	6252 – D Cubed, Dangerous Dynamic Dudettes 2429 – Megabyte Knights 6429 – H2Orange
Winner	6252 – D Cubed, Dangerous Dynamic Dudettes

Judges' Award

The Judges award is a free-form award selected by the judges to recognize significant team accomplishments that may not fit other categories.

Reason		Winner	
Reason	This team is from a school that has separate wings for girls and boys and this team was one of the first opportunities to work on an integrated team. There were a number of team dynamic issues early on, but they overcame them and jelled as a team.	Winner	2944 – Weather Catz
Reason	This team had a big age range and multiple judges were impressed with how everyone had an equal role and sharing was done across all ages.	Winner	7698 – Sherburne County 4H

The Champion's Award

The Champions Award is the Grand Championship; presented to the team that best combines performance in the competitive aspects of FLL, and representation of the true meaning of FLL in its enthusiasm and inspiration to others.

The division 1 winner from yesterday was invited to represent Minnesota at the 2009 FLL United States Open Championship at Wright State University in Dayton Ohio from May 7th through 9th.

The division 2 winner from today will represent Minnesota at the FLL World Festival in Atlanta in April.

Division 2	
Finalists	655 – The Lost Boys 3756 – Ah Ha 784 – Techno Travelers 1606 – Hydrogen Peroxide
Reason	Extraordinary outreach in their community. They have helped build new teams and shared their technical excellence and research skills with others. They are wonderful role models for other FLL teams.
Winner	784 – Techno Travelers