

# Robotics Regional Championship Coming to SWOSU

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Robo Owls of Elgin, OK (team #5192 - *left*) and K-9 Kommanders of Weatherford, OK (team # 7814 - *right*) compete in a recent qualifier event. These are two of the 36 teams that will participate in the upcoming regional championship at SWOSU.

The Engineering Technology and Computer Science Departments of Southwestern Oklahoma State University will host the 2013-2014 FTC Robotics Oklahoma Regional Championship on Friday and Saturday, February 7-8, in Weatherford.

Thirty-six high-school-aged teams from across the state have been invited to attend the state championship after competing in four qualifier events across the state over the past three months.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) is an intermediate robotics competition that provides high-school-aged students with a challenging, technology-rich, exciting program that inspires them to get into science, technology and engineering.

Teams of up to 10 students will work alongside mentors, applying real-world math and science concepts to solve the annual challenge. They compete and cooperate in team alliances at high-energy regional tournaments that reward the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students. Through their *FIRST* involvement, students discover the rewarding and engaging process of innovation and engineering.

The FTC Robotics Oklahoma Regional Championship will send seven teams to the South Super-Regional event to be held February 26-28, 2014 in San Antonio. Seventy-two teams from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma will compete in the Super-Regional for an invitation to the World Championship in St. Louis in April.

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