

Newcastle Teams Win Top Spots at Oklahoma State FTC Robotics Championship

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Two teams from Newcastle won the top two spots at the 2014 Oklahoma State FTC Robotics Championship held recently on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford.

Team Medusa from Newcastle High School took top honors with Organized Chaos from Newcastle High School right behind in second place. Both teams, along with five other teams, have been invited to participate in the FTC Southern Regional Championship on February 26-28 in San Antonio, Texas. There will be 72 teams from state championship events from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma at the San Antonio event. Those teams will compete for 20 invitations to the FTC World Championship at the end of April.

Other teams going from the SWOSU event to San Antonio are: Lightsabers, Liao Home School in Oklahoma City; Tech Hog Robotics, Springdale (AR); Longshots, Southwest Technology Center in Altus; Centurion Roughers, Muskogee; and Y Not Robots 2, Chickasaw Nation, Ada.

Thirty-four teams from across Oklahoma and Arkansas participated in the two day competition at SWOSU. Engineers and scientists from the area judged teams through interviews and field performance for their creativity of design and team-based skills to award six different awards. The teams then competed in eight hours of intense robotic matches on Saturday where three teams emerged as the winning alliance.

The event marked the end of the Oklahoma FTC Robotics season in the state. Each of these teams had to receive an invitation to state from one of four qualifiers around the state hosted by SWOSU. Most teams competed in two qualifiers to get to the state championships. The season started in September of 2013 with 62 Oklahoma teams.

“This was the most competitive season yet in our five-year history running the FTC program at SWOSU,” said Oklahoma FTC Director Brad Fitzgerald. “The judging was very difficult and the competitiveness on the playing field was very intense.”