

January 16, 2006

Dear Community Member:

We have a dream...to compete at the 2006 FLL World Festival...

Welcome from the S.M.A.R.T. team from Stamford, Connecticut! We are members of the "FIRST LEGO League" (FLL) - which is an international program created by a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Company. The goal of the FLL is to give children age 9-14 the opportunity to discover how exciting and rewarding science and technology can be using real-world context and hands on experience. FLL teams develop public speaking skills, problem solving skills, and teamwork as they design, build, and program their robots to complete the missions of the FLL Robot Game.

The 2005-06 FLL Ocean Odyssey Robot Challenge required our team to design, build and program a robot to accomplish as many of the nine "Challenge Missions" as possible in 2 ½ minutes. Our robot, "Sub-Wall-y", scored the highest number of points competing against 50 other teams at the CT State Championship in December, 2005.

For the Ocean Odyssey Project challenge we had to choose an Ocean activity or resource and study its impact on ocean's health, productivity and biodiversity. We researched Pearliculture and found that Pearl farmers face several challenges in their quest to bring us beautiful pearls. We met with area scientists like Joe Schnierlein and Geoff Denham, business owners like Penny Mola to discuss and share our innovative solution to help pearl farmers protect their "crop". We also studied Dr. Maria Haws' manual on Pearl Farming. After seeing our project presentation, we are confident that you will never look at a string of pearls the same way again.

Our S.M.A.R.T. team is comprised of 7 students, 5 girls and 2 boys, with an average age of 12. Our graduating team captain of last year has returned as a Junior Mentor, a tradition we are very proud of.

As the Director's Award winner from the state of Connecticut, we have the responsibility and privilege of representing our community at the World Festival where we will compete with 80 other champions from all over the United States and 30 different countries. This is an awesome opportunity for all of us to show the world that Connecticut is proud to support cutting-edge science and technology education and accomplishment among its youngsters.

For us to compete in Atlanta, we are required to raise funds to pay for our team's registration fee of \$1000 as well as for travel, boarding and lodging for our team as well as chaperones traveling with us. This is an approximately \$25000 expense!

Our team members meet and work together for over 15 hours every week to make a competitive robot and project presentation. With your support, in-kind and/or financial, we can realize our dream of competing at the World Festival once again.

Please share in our dream and build our community's future!

Thank you,

Regards from the S.M.A.R.T. team



FLL Director's Award

FLL Team #1, the "S.M.A.R.T. Team" from Stamford, CT won the prestigious and most coveted 2005 FIRST LEGO League CT State Director's Award, FLL's highest honor, which recognizes the team that best inspires and motivates others about the excitement and wonders of science and technology while demonstrating gracious professionalism. The Director's Award winners from all over the United States and from 30 countries will compete at the World Festival at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for 2 ½ days in April.

Recent Accomplishments

2005-06 – OCEAN ODYSSEY

CT State Championship tournament

1. The Director's Award
2. Robot Performance Award - 1st Place
3. Robot Programming Award - 2nd Place
4. Research Project Award - 2nd Place
5. IEEE Director's Award and \$200

Local & Qualifier tournament – Bridgeport & Enfield

1. The Director's Award
2. Robot Performance Award - 1st Place
3. Judges Award

2004-05 – NO LIMITS

World Festival

1. Team Spirit Award
2. Young Adult Mentor Award
3. Project Award - for their innovative solution

CT State Championship tournament

1. The Director's Award
2. Robot Performance Award - 1st Place
3. Creative Presentation Award – 2nd Place
4. Innovative Design Award – 3rd Place
5. IEEE Awards and \$500
6. Coach of the Year Award – Seema Winsor

Local & Qualifier tournament – Bridgeport & Enfield

1. The Director's Award
2. Robot Performance Award - 1st Place

2003-04 – MISSION MARS

CT State Championship tournament

1. Research Project Award – 1st Place
2. Robot Programming Award – 1st Place
3. Coach of the Year Award – Peter Dowling

2002-03 – CITY SIGHTS

CT State Championship tournament

1. Creativity Award – 1st Place
2. Research Project Award – 2nd Place
3. Judges Award

