



Coconino High School Robotics

FRC Team 2486 · The CocoNuts · Flagstaff, AZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: COCONUTS FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM WINS UTAH REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S AWARD AND ADVANCES TO FIRST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 8th CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

The CocoNuts recently traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah and competed in the Utah FIRST Robotics Competition Regional March 12-14, 2015. The CocoNuts were named the Regional Chairman's Award winner. This is the 6th time in their seven years being eligible for the Chairman's Award that the CocoNuts have won this prestigious honor. Pictures of the event are at the bottom of this press release.

At the award ceremony, the Regional Chairman's Award is described as "the most prestigious award given at a FIRST Robotics Competition event. It honors a team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the goals and purposes of FIRST. The Chairman's Award is presented to the team best judged to have the most significant measureable impact on its partnerships, among its participants, and community over a sustained period, not just a single build season. The winner is able to demonstrate progress toward FIRST's mission of transforming our culture. The recipient team is invited to the FIRST World Championship where it will compete for the Chairman's Award against the Chairman's Award winners from all the other qualifying events."

Here's what the judges had to say about the CocoNuts:

"This team shares a passion for making a difference. They have thousands of hours of volunteer outreach, not only in FIRST programs but with local and district government, professional organizations, and educators. Through these partnerships, these groups seek this team's assistance and open events for more opportunities to spread FIRST. Based on the belief that no team should be left behind due to distance, they have created and sustained exponential growth in FLL, FTC, and FRC programs in their large rural area that lacks many of the basic service that others take for granted. Educators and community leaders acknowledge them as active partners in reversing the trend of decreasing public school enrollment by providing access to STEM programs in their ethnically and culturally diverse community. The numerous letters that supporters have provided show that this team is truly changing the culture near and far. Let's go NUTS for Team 2486, the CocoNuts!"

This year, the CocoNuts chose to write their Chairman's Award submission through the voices of those they have impacted. The team received over 50 letters from professionals, FIRST Lego League teams, FIRST Tech Challenge teams, FIRST Robotics Competition teams, parents, mentors, and students describing the huge impact the CocoNuts have made locally, regionally and internationally. These letters were incorporated throughout our submission "Inspiring Change, One Letter at a Time," including the written essay, executive summaries, formal presentation, and video.

The CocoNuts placed 17th out of 53 competing teams at the Utah Regional. This year's game, is called Recycle Rush. **RECYCLE RUSH** is a recycling-themed game played by two Alliances of three robots each on a 27'x54' field. Robots score points by stacking totes weighing over 8 lbs each on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers, and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter. In keeping with the recycling theme of the game, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable by teams in their home locations or by *FIRST* at the end of the season.



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March 19-21, the CocoNuts will travel to Chandler to compete in the Arizona East FIRST Robotics Competition Regional event.

The CocoNuts will also travel to the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, MO April 22-25, 2015 to compete with 600 other FIRST Robotics Competition Teams from around the world.

The CocoNuts are hosting several fundraising events to raise the travel expenses needed to take a team of 22 students and 6 mentors to St. Louis.

The CocoNuts will be having a car wash at Chili's (1500 S. Milton Rd. Flagstaff, AZ 86001). The car wash is Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Suggested donation for a car wash is \$5 and all proceeds benefit the travel expenses for the CocoNuts team members.

Chili's will also be doing a Give Back Day to benefit the CocoNuts. From 10:45 am to 11:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 15% of all sales will go to the travel expenses for the CocoNuts team members. Just mention the CocoNuts to participate!

The CocoNuts are also hosting a Yard Sale April 11 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Coconino High School South Parking Lot. Proceeds will benefit the travel expenses of the CocoNuts team members.

You can also support the CocoNuts by making a tax credit donation to our team. This year, we are creating a scholarship program for deserving CocoNuts who may have financial difficulties paying to www.fusd1robotics.org. Donors can sponsor a specific CocoNut, or state "Travel Scholarship" on their form.



The CocoNuts would like to thank the Flagstaff community for continuing to support the CocoNuts and our efforts to spread FIRST throughout our region, and to the community members who took the time to write letters for our Chairman's Award submission.

CocoNuts drive team members Drew Stringer and Luke Peterson set their robot "Noodle von Totenstein" on the field before a match at the FIRST Robotics Competition Utah Regional.



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CocoNuts coach Dave Thompson gives directions to drivers Drew Stringer and Davin Gage during a match at the FIRST Robotics Competition Utah Regional.



The CocoNuts celebrate their 6th FIRST Robotics Competition Regional Chairman's Award win in Salt Lake City, Utah.



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About the CocoNuts:

The CocoNuts Robotics Team from Coconino High School in Flagstaff, Arizona, is the first robotics team of its kind in Northern Arizona. Since its founding in 2007, the CocoNuts have been the recipients of such prestigious awards as the Inspire Award, Engineering Inspiration Award and six-time winners of the Regional Chairman's Award. The CocoNuts spend countless hours working in their community to spread the excitement of FIRST Robotics, mentor many of the younger FIRST teams in Flagstaff and the surrounding areas, teach an original robotics curriculum a summer robotics program for younger students, train teachers to implement FIRST Robotics in the classroom, and host the Northern Arizona FIRST Lego League and Arizona/New Mexico FIRST Tech Challenge Programs. Visit www.fusd1robotics.org for more information and to get involved. **GO NUTS!**

About FIRST®

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded [FIRST®](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge,



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and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$14 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the [FIRST® Robotics Competition](#) (FRC®) and [FIRST® Tech Challenge](#) (FTC®) for high-school students, [FIRST® LEGO® League](#) (FLL®) for 9 to 14-year-olds, (9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S. and Canada) and [Junior FIRST® LEGO® League](#) (Jr.FLL™) for 6 to 9-year-olds. Gracious Professionalism™ is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about FIRST, go to www.usfirst.org.

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The CocoNuts are partners with:
Flagstaff Unified School District #1
WL Gore and Associates
Northern Arizona University
Coconino High School

The CocoNuts are proudly sponsored by:

Northern Arizona FIRST Alliance Partners:
Phoenix Analysis & Design Technologies
APS/Phoenix Suns Mini Grant

Northern Arizona FIRST Fanatics:
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Friends of Northern Arizona's Future:
AZ Superbowl Planning Committee STEM Superhero Awards
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And the generous and continuing support of the Flagstaff Community.