

FIRST Robots take over the Nation's Capitol

Harris-sponsored FIRST Team 1511 recently traveled to Washington, DC to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition Regional, which took place March 24-26. It was their first time competing in DC, where this year's brand new drive team ranked 16 out of 63 teams. They were chosen to join the 4th seed alliance and made it to the semi-finals, but were beat out by the alliance that won the regional competition.



FIRST Team 1511's robot Thunderous Prime putting up a square tube

The team members worked hard all three days to qualify for the International Championships in St. Louis, MO, taking place April 28 – 30. Their hard work paid off as 1511 took home the top award, the Chairman's Award, for the third consecutive year!



FIRST Team 1511 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial



Our Chairman's Presenters: Mo E., Crystal V., and Rachel J.

Part of the criteria for winning the Chairman's Award is to show the strong partnership between the team and its sponsor. The three student presenters (above) talked to the judges about their working relationships with Harris mentors and the support provided to the team by Harris administrators. In the presentation to the judges, we featured **Chip Renzi** and **Adam Templeton** speaking at the Rochester Rally, our pre-ship event!

It is clear that these students are learning much more than hands-on technical experience from the FIRST program and Harris mentors; they are also learning life skills that will take them far in the future. The team enjoyed celebrating their win by touring the Mall and all of its wondrous monuments, as well as visiting the Air and Space Museum.



Our Drive Team Coach Calvin D. celebrating 1511 winning the Quarter Finals

Next up for FIRST Team 1511 is preparing for the Championships! They will be constructing more Minibots, which will compete in a vertical climb race in the last 10 seconds of each match. The Chairman's presenters will be practicing more as 1511 now qualifies for the International Chairman's Championships in St. Louis. Jason K., our robot driver and Finger Lakes Regional (RIT) Dean's List Finalist, will also be eligible to win Championship Dean's List (only 10 students out of 96 will receive it!). The robot, Thunderous Prime, has already been shipped in its crate to St. Louis and will be waiting for a terrific competition in a few weeks.

You can check out the Championship matches at: http://robotics.nasa.gov/events/2011_frcwebcasts.php.

For more information on Harris sponsored FIRST Team 1511 please visit: www.penfieldrobotics.com.



2011 Washington DC Regional Chairman's Award Winners, FIRST Team 1511 – Rolling Thunder!