

ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM WINS TOURNAMENT

Del Rio District Event for FIRST in Texas is a First Win for local team

[Austin, Texas, March 9, 2020] — Team 2158, the aUSTIN CANs from Anderson High School and Explorer Post 2158, is celebrating a fantastic beginning to their 2020 FRC competition season. They traveled to Del Rio, Texas for their first of two 2020 District events. Qualification rounds ended with the team as the #2 Alliance captain and they emerged from the playoff rounds as District Event Winners. This is the first time in the team's 14 year history that they have won an event in the regular season; they are currently ranked #10 in the State.

The aUSTIN CANs were also recognized with a significant award at the event:

The team received the Industrial Design Award, given to recognize "form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge."* This award honors the combined efforts of the strategy, CAD, manufacturing, and programming components that have all been stellar this season.

Lead Mentor and Anderson teacher Vincent Wrencher, Sr. was also nominated for the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award, in recognition of his encouragement and creativity in leadership.

The theme of this year's Star Wars - related competition is RISE: Infinite Recharge. Details for this year's game were released to all teams around the world on January 4, 2020. In the weeks since then, students have worked collaboratively with their AISD teachers as well as community volunteer mentors to design, manufacture, build, and program a robot for competition from the ground up. They have also worked year round on their outreach programs to promote STEM-related learning among area youth.

The CANs' next District event will be in Austin at Vandergrift High School March 19-21, 2020. Admission is free and open to the public; aUSTIN CANs fans are encouraged to wear yellow to come and cheer them on. Additional information can be found at www.andersonrobotics.org.

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit organization that uses robotics competitions to encourage students to become actively involved and interested in engineering fields. The FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) division is for high school students grades 9-12, and Anderson High has had a team since their Rookie year of 2007. There are currently 196 teams in Texas and New Mexico who compete at various levels. Every team competes in 2 District (local) events. Of the 196 teams, the top ranked teams will compete in San Antonio for the State Championship on April 1-4, 2020. Winners at that level will advance to the international World Championship in Houston on April 15-18, 2020.

* Awards description: <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/frc/awards-based-on-machine-creativity-innovation#IndustrialDesignAward> District Rankings: <http://frc-districtrankings.firstinspires.org/2020/TX>