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For Immediate Release

LOCAL TEAM'S ROBOT - 1ST PLACE IN WORLD!

**Foothills Robotics team wins 1st Place Robot Design & Programming Award
at World Festival in Atlanta.**

The Lego Guards, a local Meadow Vista community robotics club, represented Northern California at the FIRST World Festival Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia, held April 17-19. The event was held at the Olympic Village and Georgia Dome and there were over 500 robotics teams from 43 countries. The Lego Guards competed in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) division against 81 other teams representing over 100,000 children worldwide. The opening ceremony included a very special guest speaker: President George H. W. Bush Sr. who made the comment *"This is the World Wrestling Federation for smart people!"*.

At the World Festival, the Lego Guards competed in 3 days of intense judging and competition. This included creating a booth representing Northern California, project presentation judging, teamwork judging, engineering and design judging and head-to-head robot performance competition in the Georgia Dome! This culminated in an awards ceremony where the Lego Guards were honored to receive the highest engineering award: 1st Place Robot Design - Programming.

FIRST, a not-for-profit public charity, aims to interest children ages 9-14 in engineering, robotics and teamwork with its LEGO league. The league develops a challenge each year based on researching and solving a real-world issue - this year's topic is sustainable energy - and groups such as the LEGO Guards set out to build an autonomous robot capable of completing tasks, or missions. Such missions include "installing" a solar panel, "harvesting" corn and "planting" trees. The Lego Guard's robot was able to consistently achieve a perfect score on their performance rounds.

For their "Power Puzzle" presentation, the Lego Guards chose the Auburn Placer County Library as their subject. They conducted an energy audit and worked closely with PG&E, the library staff and several other resources. As a result of their research, the team was able to present energy solutions to the Library Board and administration that will save them over \$12,000 in the first year alone. The Placer County Board of Supervisors honored the Lego Guards with a Commendation for their achievements.

Lego Guards Team members are: Karl LeVezu (14), Gavin Owens (13), Alejandro Vega (12), Justin Demma (13) and Robin Moss (14). Lego Guards coach is: Alan LeVezu (Senior Design Engineer, IDAC West)

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with the team, please call Heidi Buck (Assistant Coach) at 530.637.0094 or email Heidi at heidi@legoguards.net.