

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: June 9, 2009

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION – Present a Commendation honoring the Meadow Vista based "LEGO Guards" team members for winning the First Place "Innovation Award" at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League global "Children's Climate Action Summit" held in Copenhagen, Denmark in May, 2009.

ACTION REQUESTED

Present a Commendation honoring the Meadow Vista based "LEGO Guards" team members for winning the First Place "Innovation Award" at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League global "Children's Climate Action Summit" held in Copenhagen, Denmark in May, 2009.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The LEGO Guards is a local robotics club located in the community of Meadow Vista whose current members are Faith Oakes (13), Alejandro Vega (12), Andrew Wood (12), Bobby Huckins (12), Aydan Potts (11) and Drew Oakes (10). They are lead by Coach, Heidi Buck and Mentor, Alan LeVezu. The goal of the FIRST competition is to inspire youth ages 9 – 14 to be science and technology leaders. The teams are judged in four categories during the competition; robot performance, design, teamwork and research presentation. The LEGO Guards won multiple awards in local and state competitions before winning one of six invitations to attend the global "Children's Climate Action Summit" that was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. At the summit, they won First Place for their "Forest Guard Early Wildfire Detection System" aimed at establishing an early warning system for wildfires.

Their idea would use solar powered video cameras mounted throughout the forest that would be linked to the internet. They would provide a free screen saver which would let viewers enjoy the photos of the forest while also looking out for wildfires. Upon sighting a fire, viewers could press a key on their keyboard to notify local officials of the fire with a limit of incoming signals set at the fire stations to avoid excessive notifications or false alarms. As a result of winning First Place at the global summit, their idea is being implemented and put into action through an agreement with Sony.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the Matter of a Commendation recognizing the Meadow Vista based "LEGO Guards" team members: Faith Oakes (13), Alejandro Vega (12), Andrew Wood (12), Bobby Huckins (12), Aydan Potts (11) and Drew Oakes (10), under the leadership of Coach, Heidi Buck and Mentor, Alan LeVezu for winning the First-Place "Innovation Award" at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League global "Children's Climate Action Summit" held in Copenhagen, Demark in May, 2009.

Whereas, the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League, is based in Manchester, New Hampshire and was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, an advocate for science and technology; and

Whereas, the vision of FIRST is, "To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes"; and

Whereas, FIRST mission is "To inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership"; and

Whereas, the LEGO Guards is a local robotics club located in the community of Meadow Vista and is made up of students from the Placer County Office of Education-Independent Home Study School; and

Whereas, each year the FIRST program develops a challenge focused on researching and solving a real-world issue and provides an opportunity for teams such as the Lego Guards, to build a robot capable of completing set tasks for table competitions, in addition to, developing an innovative solution to the problem which is also presented for judging at various levels of competition. The topic this year was climate, titled "Children's Climate Call"; and

Whereas, the LEGO Guards achieved numerous awards throughout the various local and state levels of competition including, (out of 24 teams), the 1st Place Champion's Award and 1st Place Robot Performance at the Sacramento FLL Regional Tournament in December, 2008 and (out of 64 teams), 1st Place for Project Presentation; 2nd Place for Robot Performance; the Craziest Robot Attachment Award and the Outstanding Coach/Mentor of the Year Award at the Northern California FLL Championship Tournament; and

Whereas, there were over 13,000 competitors in over 40 countries at the Northern California FLL State Championship Tournament of which the LEGO Guards were one of the six finalist teams selected to move forward to the global summit competition in Copenhagen, Denmark after winning 1st Place for their, "Forest Guard Early Wildfire Detection System" aimed at establishing an early warning system for wildfires; and

Whereas, their idea would use solar powered video cameras mounted throughout the forest which are linked to the internet. They would provide a free screen saver which would let viewers enjoy the photos of the forest while also looking out for wildfires. Upon sighting a fire, viewers could press a key on their keyboard to notify local officials of the fire with a limit of incoming signals set at the fire stations to avoid excessive notifications or false alarms; and

Whereas, finally, their innovative idea won the LEGO Guards from Meadow Vista 1st Place at the global "Children's Climate Action Summit" in Copenhagen, Demark and the opportunity to implement their idea into action through an agreement with Sony.

Now Therefore Let It Be Known That, on this 9th day of June, 2009, the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in commending this exceptional group of young inventors on their outstanding achievement and for their inspiration to all youth to put their vision into action and for helping to keep our forests safe and our environment healthy through early detection of wildfires.

F.C. "Rocky" Rockholm Supervisor, District 1
Chairman 2009

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Jim Holmes
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery
Supervisor, District 5

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