

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Girl Scouts' robotics team snags regional title**

With a few LEGO blocks and little ingenuity, Team Spazbotz snagged two awards and a spot in the FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE state finals. The wins occurred during the Botcat Regional FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE (FLL) robotics competition Saturday, Dec. 4 at Edison Intermediate School in Grandview. Now Team Spazbotz, a FLL robotics team consisting of six area Girl Scouts, is one of four regional teams headed to the state competition set for February 12-13, 2011, at the Ervin J. Nutter Center in Dayton.

This season, teams are competing around the FLL Body Forward Challenge, which allows teams to explore the cutting-edge world of biomedical engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize the body's potential, according to information from the FLL. Each challenge consists of two components: Robot Games, which require teams to build and program an autonomous robot to perform biomedical engineering-themed tasks; plus a project.

During the regional event, the Spazbotz' robot competed against 22 other robots to win the Robot Performance Award, which recognizes a team that scores the most points during the Robot Game. Spazbotz team also won the Research Award for its ACL tear project. The projects require teams to delve into a modern-day scientific challenge, develop an innovative solution and present their findings.

The Spazbotz were just one of many talented teams that participated in the regionals, said the tournament's manager, Sue Godez.

"We had a lot of strong teams and it was great to see that competitive level among the students," Godez said.

This will be the Spazbotz' first time competing at the state level. They'll compete against 60 teams during the event. Less than 20 percent of the competing regional teams earn a spot at the state championship level. The team has competed in three previous regional competitions.

Spazbotz includes Girl Scout Cadettes from: Troop #1774: Kira Benson, Joanna Junkans and Claire Sanieł-Banrey of Ostrander; Troop #2080: Erica Miller of Delaware; and Juliette Girl Scouts: Sophie and Liz Halter of Delaware.

Team coaches include Dee Junkans of Ostrander and Andy Halter of Delaware.

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the premier leadership development program for girls age 5 to 18. The mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts is shaping the next generation of women leaders through leadership and service in the arts, science, technology, environment, etiquette, and numerous other experiences that are contemporary, compelling and relevant to today's girls.

Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland Council, headquartered in Columbus, serves 35,000 girls and 10,000 adult volunteers in 30 counties: Adams, Ashland, Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Guernsey, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Richland, Ross, Scioto, Union, Vinton, Wayne and Wyandot. For information on how to join, volunteer, or donate to Girl Scouts, call (800) 621-7042 or visit [www.gsooh.org](http://www.gsooh.org).

-30-

[FIRST LEGO® League \(FLL\)](#) is a collaboration between the LEGO® Company and [FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a non-profit organization founded by [Dean Kamen](#) that is committed to creating robotic competition programs that will excite and inspire children from kindergarten through high school to excel in math and science.

Team coaches include Dee Junkans of Ostrander 740-666-5700; [junkans@hotmail.com](mailto:junkans@hotmail.com) and Andy Halter of Delaware 740-362-3778; [andy@nrcentineering.com](mailto:andy@nrcentineering.com).

### **Photo Outline:**

Front Row from left: Erica Miller, Claire Sanieł-Banrey, Liz Halter  
Back Row from left: Coach Andy Halter, Joanna Junkans, Kira Benson, Sophie Halter  
(Very front row: Trophies for Robot Performance and Research Award)