



Learning Is For Everyone, INC

www.Learningis4Everyone.org

www.TeamDuctTape.com



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PRESS RELEASE

FIRST Tech Challenge Team Duct Tape heads to State Championship Saturday



Odessa - Team Duct Tape, an award winning FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) community based high school level robotics team from Odessa, FL, will be competing with dozens of other teams in the Florida FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship at the University of South Florida Recreation Center on Saturday, February 27, from 10am to 6pm.

The event is free and open to the public, and brings together high school level robotics teams from around the state vying for the opportunity to compete at the World Championship in Atlanta in April.

In this year's challenge, teams pit their robots against one another on a 12X12 foot playing field, earning points by releasing wiffle-type balls from a chute in an autonomous mode, and shooting balls into center, or into off-field goals. Matches are two and a half fast paced minutes long. Students receive awards for robot design and effectiveness, teamwork, community outreach, and overall character and demonstration of the principle FIRST value of Gracious Professionalism.

In the past few weeks, Team Duct Tape members, who hail from several public, private and homeschools from the Odessa area, have represented FIRST robotics at the Lockheed Martin eWeek event in Orlando, at the Bay Area Renaissance Festival, and at the first ever TEDx Tampa Bay event. They have mentored younger FIRST robotics teams, and volunteered at FIRST LEGO League tournaments. They, in turn, have been mentored by

professionals in the community, helping them develop engineering skills most students don't receive until college, including the use of Computer Assisted Design programs like PRO/Engineer, prototyping, and sophisticated programming skills. Students use a combination of in person meeting time and online collaborative tools like Skype and Google Apps to coordinate work between meetings. The students have been aided in their high tech education by mentors from local engineering firms like McCormick Stevenson and support from organizations like the Florida West Coast Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and PTC.

Team Duct Tape, winner of five top awards in its rookie season last year, and three top awards so far this season, is sponsored, in part, by the non-profit education resource organization, Learning is for Everyone, which believes that high quality STEM education should be accessible to all youth, and that all young people, boys and especially girls, with an interest in math, science, and technology should have an opportunity to express and explore those interests. LIFE Inc. seeks to bring high school level robotics as within reach as Scouting, and to make it as commonplace, accessible and fun as a pick up game of basketball.

Support for Team Duct Tape also comes from Tampa Technik, in St. Petersburg, Shurtech brands Duck Tape, and the Golf Car Depot in Land O' Lakes.

Please visit the team website at www.TeamDuctTape.com to learn more about Team Duct Tape.

Learning is For Everyone, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 C(3) organization whose goal is to empower families and individuals with educational information resources on and off the web, and assistance through its activities in all aspects of education at all stages of life.

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