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Robotics Team Wins Rookie Award

Dripping Springs High School students competing in the FIRST Dallas Regional won the prestigious Rookie All-Star Award and qualified for the World Championship.

The Dripping Springs team, which calls itself "Spring Konstant," was formed this year and consists of 27 team members. In FIRST events, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a "brand," and build and program robots to complete various tasks. The team received its challenge in January and since has been working to build its robot.

The Rookie All-Star Award celebrates a first-year team that has made a strong partnership effort with its community and has a vision for their future impact. This award recognizes a team that inspires others to appreciate science and engineering, and to view these career fields as exciting and meaningful. The DSHS team shared with the judges how the members taught elementary students at Family Science Night, wrote a document that included a 10-year vision, budget and marketing plan, and how they worked through the design process for their robot.

The team that wins the Rookie All-Star Award earns an automatic bid to the World Championships, which will be held April 19-22 in Houston. Only eight of the 54 teams competing at regionals qualified for the world championships. More than 600 teams from around the world will compete at that event, including teams from Australia, China, Brazil, Israel and Turkey.

Spring Konstant has one more opportunity to tune up before the world championships, competing at a regional event in Waco later this month.