

DATE: April 6, 2018

ROBOTICS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Dripping Springs High School robotics team, the Spring Konstant, competed at the FIRST Robotics Alamo Regional April 5 and won the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award, which qualifies DSHS to attend FIRST Robotics World Championships. The regional competition included 51 teams from as far away as China. Teams in the competition pitted their robots against one another in a 1980s video game-themed competition called "Power Up." The game involved moving cubes around the playing field and scoring points by placing them on various platforms. By the end of the qualification matches, Spring Konstant was ranked 13th and earned the designation of "Alliance Captain," which means they were able to choose the other two teams in their alliance to play in the quarterfinals. Even though Spring Konstant was eliminated in the quarterfinals, the team was awarded one of two special awards that include an automatic qualification to the world championships. The Engineering Inspiration Award "celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community." In addition to qualification to the world championships, the award also comes with a grant from NASA to pay a portion of the team's cost to attend.

This is the second year that Dripping Springs High School has entered a team in this competition and last year's team won the Rookie Award to qualify for the World Championships. Only one other FIRST Robotics Team in the entire history of the competition has ever had the combination of awards, wins, and honors that Spring Konstant has had the past two years. The World Championships will be held in Houston April 18-21, 2018.

Team members are:
Jacob Houssian (Driver)
Igor Derke (Operator)

Destry Dewitt (Coach)
Theodore Venter (Human Player)
Ian Stinson (Field Technician)
Connor Mayer (Pit Lead)
Reid Lohman (Pit Crew)
Seth Crane (Pit Crew)
Cael Uzuanis (Pit Crew)
Kamal Turner (Pit Crew)
Jakob Peslak (Pit Crew)
Drew Wilson (Pit Crew)
Bryce Johnson (Pit Crew)
Spencer Currey (Pit Crew)
Riley Borneman (Pit Crew)
Mohammad Manekia (Pit Crew)
John Yim (Pit Crew)
Ryan Gahagan (Programming)
Jake Bryant (Programming)
Andrea Benitez (Gear Box Team)
Annette Ashby (Gear Box Team)
Andrew Muegel (Gear Box Team)
Jack Rodrigue (Strategy-Alliance Captain)
David Pieper (Strategy)
Kendrick Lemmond (Strategy)
Johnny Dollard (Strategy)
Pamela Lohman (Scout)
Ben Valle (Scout)
Joe LaRock (Scout)
Ayush Srivastava (Scout)
Noah Del Angel (Business Team)
Connell Gutierrez (Business Team)
Alyssa Ordway (Business Team)
Amy Green (Business Team-Tech)
Jack Perry (Business Team)
Jack Cook (Business Team)
Sebastian Warder (Business Team)
Austin Elias (Business Team)
Torsion (the robot)