

Saginaw Area FIRST LEGO League tournament

Annual competition date set for Saturday, November 21

For its ninth straight year, Nexteer (formerly Delphi Steering) will be sponsoring a "Ready, Set, LEGO!" tournament. This year the tournament will be at the Pioneer Gym on the Delta College Campus on Saturday, November 21.

Teams of students (ages 9-14) have eight weeks to design, build and test autonomous robots (with LEGOs) capable of completing various missions around this year's transportation based theme: Smart Move. The key to the 2009 "Smart Move" Challenge is accessing people, places, goods and services in the safest, most efficient way possible. In this journey, teams will consider many modes of transportation beyond their daily routine and streamline their options by making smart moves! Teams will be judged on technical achievement, presentation of a research project and teamwork. The competition has the goal of promoting science and technology using a sporting atmosphere.

There are at least 15 area teams participating in this year's qualifying tournament at Delta. Winning teams will advance to a championship tournament in Flint. The winner of the 2008 Flint tournament later won first place in the World Festival competing against 84 teams from around the globe. This year nearly 140,000 children are expected to participate in the FIRST LEGO League.

For more information about the program, take a look at the FLL website:
www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll or www.michiganfll.org .