

## Extension Notes

### 4-H Youth Development



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The LEGO Barbarians will be heading to the First LEGO League World Festival after winning the State Championship in Bowling Green over the weekend. They were one of 43 teams and 310 youth who competed in the robotics tournament. The LEGO Barbarians are sponsored by Greenup County 4-H in Wurtland and are coached by Jim Reneau from Shawnee University and Beth Sexton, a parent volunteer. Kathy Junker, 4-H Youth Development Agent also mentors the group.

Also receiving recognition was the LEGO Devils, a Russell Middle School group. They won the Judges' award which is given for outstanding performance. This group is coached by Steve Branim.

The robotics program is part of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) emphasis of the Greenup County 4-H Youth Development program. Youth are challenged to blend their imaginations with technology to solve real life problems. This year the theme was "Body Forward". Teams explored the "cutting-edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions, and maximize the body's potential, with the intended purpose of leading happier, healthier lives".

Teams researched a medical problem, came up with a solution and prepared a presentation. They also designed and programmed a robot to tackle 10 medical challenges, all within a 2 ½ minute time slot. Youth are also interviewed about their robot design and exhibit teamwork skills during an exercise.

The LEGO Barbarians researched the economics and availability of prosthetic devices in mostly third world countries. The need is greater there due to health issues, birth defects and war related injuries. With the lack of funds and health care, the need for a prosthetic device becomes a severe problem. The team designed a leg from recycled materials, all readily available, to provide temporary mobility until a "real" device was available.



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