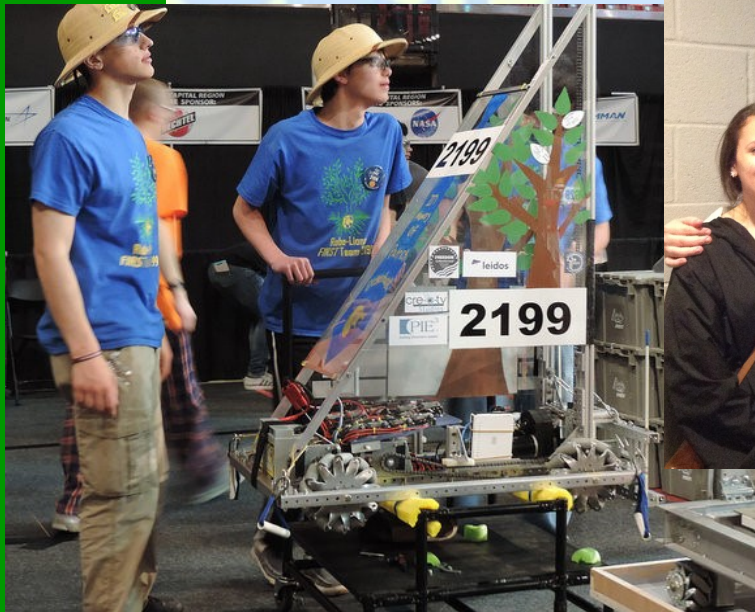




FRC Team  
2199

## RECYCLE RUSH AT CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL, COLLEGE PARK, MD



*Left: Robo-Lions Matt and Nathan, waiting in a queue for a qualification match at the Chesapeake Regional. Right: An enthusiastic crew of alumni (Courtney, Connor, Alex, KC, Scott, Sam) gear up to cheer them on!*

FIRST Robotics Competitions (FRC) combine the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology to provide students a “real-world engineering” experience.

~ [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

The 2015 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) event known as the Chesapeake Regional took place at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center, April 2-4. Fifty-eight high school robotics teams from around Maryland and Virginia, and as far away as Canada, the United Arab Emirates and Israel were battling to pick up and stack 7-pound plastic totes up to 6 feet high. They were then challenged to top the totes with a recycling container complete with "litter" (a plastic pool noodle). The robots could weigh up to 120 pounds and stand as tall as six and half feet high. During elimination rounds robots were randomly paired in groups of three, and two such trios took the field together. At the end of the qualification matches, the eight robots with the highest alliance scores became alliance leads for the elimination rounds. They then picked their alliance partners and played the final brackets for highest average scores. The reliance on scores over win-loss records was a new twist for all the teams this year, and it rewarded consistent performers with experience in multiple events.

This was the Robo-Lions' only event this season, and our robot named "Josh 3.0" did not get the consistent performance hoped for. By the off-seasons this fall, this solid robot should be stacking high! However, there is more to FRC than just robots, and the team had some great judging interviews, and were encouraged to continue their well-rounded approach to FRC competition.

The Robo-Lions were cheered not only by friends and family, but by a large contingent of alumni, who were full of team spirit. Most of our alums are currently studying engineering and science at the University of Maryland at College Park or University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Others came from Delaware, Pennsylvania and other parts of the country. The team's determination and the confidence of supporters will carry the team into their off-season competitions in the fall, and through a summer of community outreach. — Olivia S.

Join us! At the 2015 Battle O' Baltimore, our annual off-season, September 26th at McDonogh School 9 am—4 pm



AROUND THE COUNTY—ROBO-LIONS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The Robo-Lions’ springtime visits included Eldersburg, Freedom, Linton Springs and Carrolltowne Elementary Schools. FTC team 4991, the Gear Freaks, joined in on the fun and demonstrated their robot at Eldersburg’s “Groovy Science Night”. All of the students in every school had a great time driving around Team 4991’s robot, and helping Josh 3.0 stack totes.

The Robo-Lions trekked to Carrolltowne Elementary School for their annual science fair in May. They talked to many of the students about their science projects and drove Josh 3.0. It was great for the team to see the students at Carrolltowne using their investigative, and scientific skills to create amazing projects, and to share the stage with one of the FLL Teams sponsored by the Robo-Lions, the Carrolltowne Cardinals (FLL Team 2216). The Science Fair provided a special opportunity for this member of the Robo-Lions family of FIRST Teams to officially present the Maryland State Youth Mentor Award to Will Y., an FLL Team veteran who mentored them while also competing with FLL Team 2555 (another member of the family). He is currently a rookie Robo-Lion with plans to mentor again next season. — Coralie M.



Left: Carrolltown Cardinals, FLL Team 2216 with Youth Mentor of the Year for Maryland and new Robo-Lions Will Y. Above: FTC Team 4991 engages Elderburg Elementary Groovy Science Night. Below: Josh 3.0, in a light saber battle with fellow Jedi at the Mt. Airy Library.



MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU!

The Robo-Lions visited the Mt. Airy Library on May 4th, 2015 to share some Stars Wars enthusiasm. Josh 3.0 made another appearance, this time with light saber attachments. The RoboCavs FTC Teams from South Carroll High School (more Robo-Lions FIRST family members) also visited the library and brought along their own “Jedi bots”. These had light sabers attached, so that the visitors could have Jedi duels.

The library provided a craft area for making light sabers and another for photos with character cut-outs. It was a great opportunity to promote reading and celebrate a shared love of Star Wars. Everyone had a great time dueling, and seeing all of the fans dressed up in their Star Wars costumes. — Coralie M.



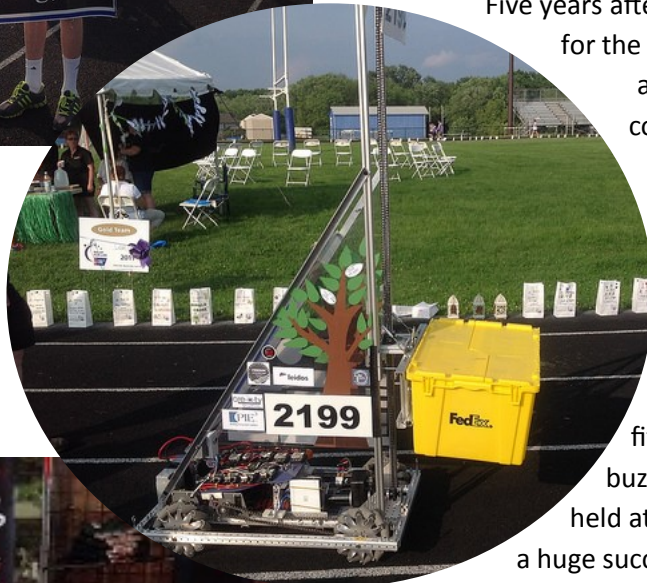


## RELAY FOR LIFE

The Robo-Lions Relay for Life team, including our robotic team member, Josh 3.0, exceeded expectations and set a high standard for teams at the Freedom Relay for Life on June 13th at Liberty High School in Eldersburg. The team exceeded the \$1500 goal by more than 10%, and donations kept coming in after the Relay.

Five years after the Robo-Lions began to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, the enthusiasm and dedication of all members has continued to grow. As Relay Team Captain and a cancer survivor, I thank all of those who made another successful Relay possible. — Rose Young

*Above and right: The Robo-Lions taking laps around the track with their robot, Josh 3.0 at the Freedom Relay for Life event June 13th, 2015. Below: Joey D Cares Concert Display and (lower right) FTC and FRC Team members and robots.*



## BENEFIT ROCK CONCERT

The Joey D Cares Rock Concert benefiting Special Olympics produced a lot of buzz around the community. The concert, held at Century High School on May 31st, was a huge success! Everyone went home with a smile

and stories to tell. Joey D Cares Rock Orchestra is a unique ensemble made up of mostly middle and high school students, with some adult members as well. Leader and founder Joe Dundore started the organization as a way of supporting various charities and allowing musicians to showcase their talents.

The orchestra has many links to the Robo-Lions, from shared members to the affiliation both groups have with the Freedom Area Recreation Council (FARC). Joe has also contributed his original music to



score a Chairman's Award video for the FRC Team. He and the rest of the the band are amazing and very committed performers.

Before the concert and during intermission, many people came by to drive Josh 3.0 with the Robo-Lions as well as the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robot built by our sister team, the Gear Freaks (Team 4991). The concert was especially fun for the special needs students who attended, and they appreciated the efforts to raise funds next year's Carroll County Special Olympics. The Robo-Lions will also support this cause on Sept. 12th at the Carroll Community College event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. —

— Bryce H.





## SHARING ROBOTICS WITH CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Robo-Lions all share the goal of getting our brand and message out to our community, and especially to our fellow students of all ages. We expose kids to a new world, a world where science and technology are respected and exciting. The Gifted and Talented (GT) Showcase brought together middle school students in the GT programs throughout the county to show their projects to reviewers. Robotics, programming, and electronics were among the projects on display from hundreds of excited students.



*Above: The Robo-Lions showing off their robot at the Gifted and Talented Showcase at Westminster High School*

The Spotlight on Youth is an annual celebration recognizing all sorts of competitions involving county students which are not athletics. The Robo-Lions, the RoboCavs FTC Teams 6284 and 8479 from South Carroll High School, FTC Team 8221 Cubix^3 and several FLL Teams were among those in the robotics display. The local Kiwanis Club, co-sponsor of the event, was encouraged by the growth in the robotics presence.

Although there was no actual competition for the robots, the growing interest in programs throughout the system may mean next year may include an exhibition. These events help us inspire of the youth of our community to strive for excellence in the fields of science, technology, math, engineering, and business. Hopefully, by sharing our experiences we've made a strong enough impact to inspire people to follow their passions in fields pertaining to robots. — John S.

### SUMMER CAMPS

The Robo-Lions summer camp sessions kicked off with a blast with two sessions in June— Lego Fun Starter Session and a Advanced Lego Programming Session. July saw the introduction of the FLL Accomplishing Missions Session, for serious EV3 programmers. In their fourth year of running the summer programs, the Robo-Lions have developed a following, and enrollment has gone from a dozen to nearly 100 registrants. In addition, the counselors now come from eight teams, including six FTC and one FLL Team besides the Robo-Lions.



This enterprise funds teams and gives them great experience teaching and mentoring. August will boast our final Lego Fun Session and Advanced Lego Programming, and a special Girls in Engineering Session. See [www.farcSPORTSSignup.com](http://www.farcSPORTSSignup.com) for information, photos and more. — Coralie M.



*Right: Fun Camp introduces Lego Robotics and Mindstorms. Participants build creative robots for a "Sumo-bot" challenge. Above: Counselor Matt at work for Lego Fun Session*