



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League to hold regional tournament at Christiansburg Middle School**

**Christiansburg, Virginia, (October 14, 2015)** – On November 7, 2015, the Tuxedo Pandas and the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council will be partnering with Montgomery County Public Schools and other sponsors to offer a regional tournament for up to 20 teams at Christiansburg Middle School.

FIRST<sup>®</sup> is not talking trash this 2015 season, but the youth are ready to clean it up during this year's challenge: **2015 FLL TRASH TREK Challenge**. Youth, ages 9 to 14 years old, will explore the fascinating world of trash. From collection, to sorting, to smart production and reuse, there is more to trash than meets the eye. FLL teams will showcase their brainstorming, research, and robotic skills on a Trash Trek game field to discover and share the hidden (or not so hidden) world of trash!

This challenge has three parts: the robot game, the project, and the FLL core values. Teams of up to 10 children, with at least one adult coach, participate in the challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field and developing a solution to a problem they have identified, all guided by the FLL Core Values. Teams may then attend an official tournament hosted by our FLL Partners.

MCPS has already formed five new teams with financial support from local companies in association with the New River Robotics Association. There is still time for students in upper elementary and middle school to join or form a team. The tournament at CMS is seeking volunteers for a variety of jobs and does not require any experience or robotic knowledge.

The public is invited to attend as teams showcase the results of weeks of preparation and compete in thrilling robot matches.

### **ABOUT THE FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> LEAGUE (FLL)**

The FLL Core Values emphasize contributions of others, friendly competition, learning and community involvement. The FIRST<sup>®</sup> (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization offers a progression of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs for students in grades K through 12. For more information, visit [www.rbfill.org](http://www.rbfill.org).

### **ABOUT THE ROANOKE - BLACKSBURG TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (RBTC)**

The Roanoke - Blacksburg Technology Council is a non-profit member-driven association of businesses and organizations in the greater Roanoke - Blacksburg region, working together to promote the growth and success of the region's technology sector. The RBTC is the leading resource for the region's growth and success. It exists to connect and unite the region's technology community, develop and educate thought-leaders, mentors and the technology workforce, and improve access to talent. To learn more, visit <http://www.thetechnologycouncil.com>.

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