



For Immediate Release
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Media Release

Ladson's Robotics team returns to state tournament

Ladson Elementary School

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Ladson, SC – Ladson Elementary School's LEGO Robotics team is young, but their skill and teamwork made up for their lack of experience in the First LEGO League (FLL) Ace Basin Qualifier in Colleton County last week. The Bulldogs finished second overall out of 23 teams, and advanced to the state tournament for the eighth time in 10 years. The Ace Basin Qualifier field was comprised of elementary schools, middle schools, home schools, and private schools from several counties throughout the Lowcountry.

Ladson took second place in both the Robot Run and the Core Value Skills competitions, despite all seven team members being in fourth grade and new to robotics and FLL. Next up for the Bulldogs is the state competition at Cane Bay High School on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

FLL is a STEM-based program that inspires students to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on learning and robotics. The program also teaches public speaking skills, as the teams have to present their project to a panel of judges.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work these students have put into their team," said Lisa Hopson, Ladson data clerk who also serves as the co-head coach of the school's LEGO Robotics team. "They shined at competition showing teamwork and pride in themselves as well as cheering on the other teams. In the words of FLL, they brought their gracious professionalism, core values, and cooperation to the competition for everyone to see. Most of all, they had fun while accomplishing their goal."

Every year, FLL has a theme where the teams have to solve a real world problem; this year's theme is "Cargo Connects." Competitors had to rethink the global transportation system and explore ways of improving how to access and deliver needed and desired goods, making all communities more connected.

The Bulldogs explored a way to get fresh vegetables and fruit to consumers quicker. They spoke with experts in food distribution, specifically Anthony Mirisciotta from Grow Food Carolina, Lindsay Ferguson of Jeburg Junction, and a South Carolina farmer, Jordan Hodgens. Following conversations and interviews, Ladson's Robotics team came up with a plan to install lockers in convenient

locations in the community (like outside of school buildings). Farmers could deliver items directly to the lockers for pick-up and distribution.

After the state competition is over, the Bulldogs plan to create a website so people can order directly from local farmers and will look at raising money to buy lockers. Ferguson told the team she would put lockers at Jedburg Junction when they get finally start the program. Hodgens added said she would love to have this opportunity and knows other farmers would support this kind of delivery system.

For more information, contact Principal Janet Brown at (843) 764-2225.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.