



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***The CLUB TEEN CENTER TAKES 3RD PLACE AND BEST OVERALL ROBOTICS AWARDS AT
N.D. FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE CHALLENGE ROBOTICS QUALIFIER, HEADING TO STATE***

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – Fargo, ND

A team of 4 teens from The CLUB Teen Center recently competed at the N.D. FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) Robotics State Qualifier, held at NDSU's Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse. The team consisted of one female and three male members of The CLUB, which is the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley's after-school youth development program for teens age 12-17.

Team "cargoCABINET" took 3rd Place out of 15 teams in the 2021-2022 CARGO CONNECT-themed competition, consisting of building and coding their LEGO robot to complete as many missions on a large game board in 2 minutes 30 seconds. The team impressed the judges with not only their technical coding and robotic mission skills, but also in the way they respectfully interacted with each other and the referees, which lead to them also winning the "Best Overall Robotics" Award. These are excellent results for a small team that, until 3 months prior, did not have any coding or robotics experience.

Team Manager and mentor Shawn Vasichek, from John Deere, initially approached The CLUB about partnering in the program. He worked with the teens and their Program Coordinator Amsey VanVolkinburg during the 3-month training period. The teens said, "This is the best Saturday ever! Coach Shawn is the best coach I've had. He's patient and doesn't just give me the answers."

Next up for Team cargoCABINET is the State FIRST® LEGO® League competition, Saturday, Feb. 12th in Grand Forks, ND at the UND Student Union.

About The CLUB Teen Center

The CLUB Teen Center offers convenient school-out time and summer programs for registered teens in 6th to 12th grade at The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley, Midtown location. The CLUB empowers teens to find their voice and achieve success through after-school experiences rooted in what matters most to them – choice, access, and passion. The CLUB is open after school until 7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, with Summer services available Monday-Friday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



About the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley is celebrating 50 years offering youth development programs for before school, after school, and school-out days at 13 Fargo locations for youth ages 5 to 17 years old, in grades K through 12. Our programming is for families of all socio-economic levels, and at a cost proportionate to each family's capacity to pay.

Our Mission: To provide a safe, caring, and fun environment for youth to learn, grow, and prepare for a great future.

Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley at bgcrrv.org, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)

About FIRST® LEGO® League and CARGO CONNECT

FIRST® LEGO® League introduces science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to youth ages 4-16 through fun, exciting hands-on learning. FIRST LEGO League participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today's students and teachers build a better future together. In FIRST LEGO League, students engage in hands-on STEM experiences, building confidence, growing their knowledge and developing habits of learning. FIRST LEGO League's three divisions inspire youth to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

Cargo Connect is the name of the FIRST LEGO League's theme for 2021-2022, with the tournament aiming to teach youth about how cargo is transported from the manufacturer, sorted for the right destinations, and delivered to the right parties.



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