



# PRESS RELEASE

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**MORRISS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAMS  
EARN REGIONAL QUALIFYING AND CORE VALUES AWARDS**

**Texarkana, TX** – Two robotics teams from the Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School took honors during the recently held First Lego League Robotics Qualifying Tournament on the University of Texas at Dallas campus.

With 29 competing teams in the 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade level, the **Robo Chickens** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team of Tirzah Bailey, Brooks Barber, Micah Collins, Makenzie Hellums, Hannah Klein, Craig Kline, Whit Loving and Dalton McBride qualified to move forward to the Regional Championship which will be held on January 21. If successful at the regional level competition, they will advance to the North American FLL Championship at LEGOLAND in Carlsbad, California. They were coached by Jessica Kline.

The **Robo Rulers** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team of Mikenzie Blasé, Chandler Bursey-Reece, Craig Crawford, Nick Graves, Riley Hamilton, Abbott Lawrence, Alec Rommel and Davis Sutton earned the Core Values Award. This award is given to the team that embodies the FLL experience and displays extraordinary enthusiasm, spirit and teamwork among themselves and with others. They were coached by Tonya Blasé.

The 2011 Food Factor Challenge had two components to the contest – the Robot Game and the Project.

For the Robot Game, teams built and programmed an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to complete the assigned missions on a themed playing field. In terms of Project, teams were asked to investigate food and map out its journey from ground to table. From there, they determined how and where food can become spoiled or contaminated. Teams then created an innovative solution that prevents or solves the problem along with a creative marketing presentation to share their solution.

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