

# North, Wave team hosts FIRST Lego League event

**By Kylie McGowan  
and Tom Lyga**

Reader submitted

On Saturday, Nov. 3, the local FIRST Wave Robotics team will help direct the Oshkosh FIRST Lego League regional tournament at Oshkosh North High School. The competition will run from noon to 4 p.m. and is free to the general public.

Teams from communities across Wisconsin will converge at North for the competition. This year's focus is teams designing products that help improve the quality

of life for seniors by helping them continue to be independent, engaged and connected to their communities. This is one of 564 qualifying tournaments worldwide.

FIRST Lego League is one of four progressive programs aligned under the overall FIRST umbrella of programs, the capstone program being the FIRST Robotics Challenge, in which the local Wave Robotics team competes. FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." The other programs are Junior FLL

and FIRST Tech Challenge. Each program targets a different age group, with FLL focusing on grades 4-8.

Students involved in FLL discover exciting career possibilities while learning to make positive contributions to their communities, which led to this year's competition theme, "The Senior Solutions Challenge." This year's challenge is worldwide with more than 200,000 students from 60-plus countries competing. Nationally, there are about 12,500 team and 125,000 students.

According to Tyler Olds, the Wave Robotics director, the robots the FLL teams design will need to perform certain autonomous tasks to support this year's challenge.

The teams had eight weeks to explore the topics of aging and how it may affect an individual's ability to maintain his or her lifestyle. Teams need to solve issues like getting around, keeping in touch, or staying fit. Students along with their adult coaches will research obstacles and then suggest ways to improve the

quality of life for the seniors affected.

Students are also tasked to develop, program, and build a robot using a custom LEGO MINDSTORMS kit and compete on a tabletop playing field to accomplish the goals and objectives of the competition. The competition is a 100 percent volunteer driven event.

Over 75 volunteers from Wave Robotics, Oshkosh West O'Neil National Honor Society, and the community make this event possible.

For more, see [www.waverobotics.com](http://www.waverobotics.com).