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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Robotics Team Wins Awards at Regional Event



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - The district's robotics team, the Flying Legion #3635, won two awards at the annual FIRST Robotics regional competition. The event was held in March 22-24 in Columbus, Ga.

The team won both the Finalist and Creativity Awards. Team #3635 was captain of the alliance team, which made it to the final round of the competition.

The Flying Legion team members are pictured at the event (in no particular order) with their robot. Team members are listed below by school.

- Houston County High: Rickey Weston, Richard Day, James

Laburda, Sean Pursley, Abrial Currie\* and JaLexia Alexander

- Northside High: Jared Oberlin\* and Lee Dunn
- Veterans High: Dakota Wilkes\*, Bruno Grosskopf, Natalie Van Slyke, Hunter Hoffman, Victoria Wiley\*, Jordan Greene and Shamika Morris\*
- Warner Robins High: Jonathan Newton.

(\* not pictured)

The students, advisers and mentors prepare for build season starting in the fall. Beginning in January, they meet for six weeks on Saturdays and after school to build their robot and prepare to compete. Each team member must put in 30 hours of work time during build season; most of the team members worked more than 50 hours. The team is led by Northside High physics teacher Tom Stahl and Houston County Career Academy construction teacher Steve Waters. Local engineers Bruno Grosskopf, Michael Day and David Gentry also work with the team as mentors.

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Competing is expensive and the team is thankful to have sponsors who help fund participation. Entry fees alone cost \$5,000 for the two regional events, plus \$4,000 for the state competition. When the team qualifies for the world competition, as it did in 2017, it is an additional \$5,000 entry fee. Additional expenses include robot parts, transportation and lodging.

Team #3635 greatly appreciates the support of its 2018 season sponsors: DoDSTEM, Booz/Allen/Hamilton, Dixie Crow Chapter 41, RobinsOSC, Southern Marketing Associates, Alfa Insurance-Devon Joiner and family and friends.



The mascot is a unique griffon, that reflects the mascots of all five high schools. The griffon head and front claws represent the Northside Eagles and Veterans Warhawks; the hind legs with padded feet are for the Houston County Bears; the whip of a tail is for the Perry Panthers; and the pitchfork is for the Warner Robins Demons. The team's mascot costume was created and donated by Anna Newman.

For more information, please contact the Houston County Career Academy Principal, Sabrina Phelps, at 478-322-3280 or visit [www.flyinglegion3635.org](http://www.flyinglegion3635.org) and <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc>.

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