

2017 R2OC Robotics Community Impact

Rock River Robotics Off-season Competition (R2OC), 501 (c)(3)

Rock River Robotics Off-season Competition (R2OC), a grass-roots local nonprofit that celebrated its fifth year in July 2017, funded a grant program eligible to area schools interested in implementing or growing *FIRST* Robotics programs. The grant funding was earmarked only for applicants based in Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago counties—the three counties that are home to the five high school programs and volunteer committee members that co-produce R2OC annually.

In 2017, R2OC funded the full grant amount offered—a **total disbursement of \$7,000 allocated to 18 area teams as follows:**

- 6 *FIRST* Lego League Jr. teams (grades K-3)
- 10 *FIRST* Lego League teams (grades 4-8)
- 2 *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams (grades 7-12)
- Geographic Reach: Rockford (14 teams), Winnebago (2), Belvidere (1) and Freeport (1)

Additionally, R2OC produced its fifth-straight Crusader Clinic and Reach Out and Read Book Drive as part of the 2017 event. The 36 competing teams combined to donate an event record 2,526 books, raising the five-year total to more than 7,000 books donated.

In partnership with Rock Valley College Foundation, R2OC also announced four \$1,000 scholarship recipients at the event. Of the 32 scholarship applications received from students competing at 2017 R2OC, the winning recipients were: Emmarie A. from Belvidere, IL; Isabelle T. from Oswego, IL; Spencer T. from Waukesha, WI; and Andrew T. from DeKalb, IL.

About R2OC: Rock River Robotics Off-season Competition (R2OC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit partnership of Rock River Valley US *FIRST* Robotics Teams. Our goal is to provide an off-season event where *FIRST* Robotics teams can participate in a competition, show off their bots to the community, and meet others who share their robotics enthusiasm.

About *FIRST*: Founded in 1989 and based in Manchester, NH, *FIRST* is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity designed to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, and to motivate them to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM fields. In 2016-17, *FIRST* global reach included 460,000+ students, 52,000+ teams, 40,000+ robots created, 120,000+ mentor/adult roles filled, and 110,000+ other volunteers filled.



For more information, visit www.R2OC.org