

## Feature

**December 21, 2023** 



## LEGO LEAGUE TEAM EARNS TEAM SPIRIT AWARD

Keaton Norfleet Staff Writer

EGO League members won the "Motivate" Award at the Quad City Qualifier in Davenport, Iowa.

On Sunday, December 10, Matthew Cain and the members of the West Branch FIRST LEGO League club traveled to the Putnam Museum in Davenport, Iowa to attend and compete in the Quad City Qualifier FIRST LEGO League competition.

Upon arrival, teams checked in and set up their pit station. Afterward, all members, mentors, and volunteers

headed to the Grand Lobby for opening ceremonies.

Fifteen teams competed at the event that came from Iowa City, Bettendorf, West Branch, Muscatine, and Davenport. In total, 10 West Branch LEGO League members participated in the competition. At the beginning of their season, the members were split into two separate teams, each team ranging in experience

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Team 62613: Craft0saurs, the largest of the two teams, included six members, sixth grader Rhys Arlen, and fifth graders Eli Finzel, Jack Seiberling, Jaxon Gray, William Nash, and Alex Haints

Team 61374: Crafty Patties consisted of four members, Eighth graders Eli Garrett, Noah Gray, and Chloe Kleinmeyer and sixth grader Marisol Murray.

Both teams designed t-shirts that they wore at the competition, as well as buttons and small 3D printed trinkets. Craft0saurs printed small t-rexes and Crafty Patties printed small pineapples.

During their season, the members of each team were assisted by high school robotics students who acted as mentors. This year, sophomores Audrey Watt, Wyatt Chapman, Ewan Arlen, and junior Keaton Norfleet assisted students with coding, robot construction,

match, the Crafty Patties earned 105 points, and the Craft0saurs earned 155 points. After the match, both teams had time to adjust their code and robot if necessary.

In their second qualification match, the Crafty Patties earned 175 points, and the Craft0saurs earned 95 points. In their third and final qualification match, the Crafty Patties earned 105 points, and the Craft0saurs earned 125 points.

At the end of the matches, the team's ranks were determined. The Crafty Patties placed in rank 10, and the Craft0saurs placed in rank 13.

After robot matches were concluded, teams made their way to the judges room, where both teams presented their innovation projects.

The Crafty Patties presented their project as "D&D but with cooking" according to Garrett.

The team created a chart containing all types of food, toppings, and sauces, and gave each option a number 1-20. The user would then roll a 20-sided-die, and create a meal based on the results of the roll.

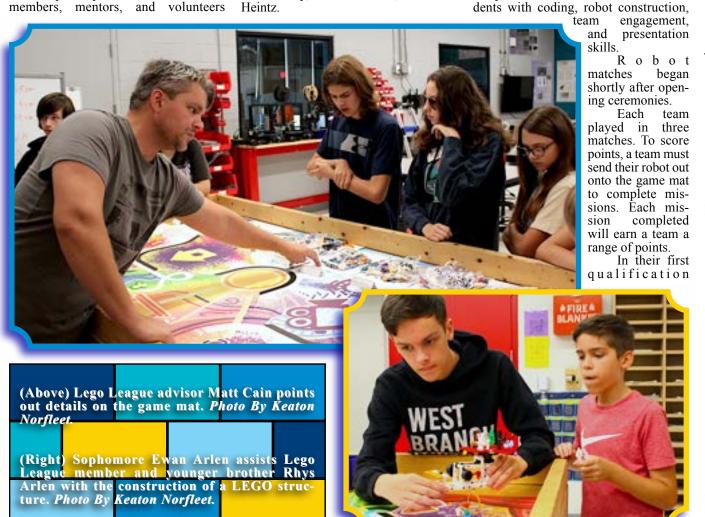
The Craft0saurs presented their project with live action skits about video games. The students performed two skits, the first being about the Nintendo actionadventure game, *The Legend of Zelda*, and the second being about the Epic Games action-battle royale game *Fort-*

All teams took a break for lunch before returning to the Grand Lobby for the closing award ceremonies.

The Crafty Patties received the "Motivate" award, which is an award that celebrates a team that embraces the cultures of FIRST LEGO League through team building, team spirit, and displayed enthusiasm.

Cain said, "They really worked hard to grow and were paid off with a really fun and successful event."

With the closing ceremonies concluded, the competition ended. Students loaded up their pits and headed back to West Branch, but not before stopping for ice cream to celebrate the day.







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