

Building Dreams With Lego

Yemin Orde's kids place in top 10 at Israel's FIRST Lego League Competition



Yemin Orde's kids proudly represented the Village at Israel's annual FIRST Lego League competition for children between 9 and 14 years of age. The group placed 10th in a crowded field of other Israeli schools participating in this science-oriented event.

The central task in this competition is for each team to create a working robot made out of Lego.

FIRST is a nonprofit organization devoted to helping young people discover and develop a passion for science, engineering, technology and math. Its programs encourage self-confidence, develop people and life skills, help students make new friends, and discover an unforeseen career path. Yemin Orde has participated in previous years in FIRST's robotic competition and, in 2009, its team qualified for the international competition in Atlanta, GA.

This year, five of Yemin Orde's 9th graders worked together over a two-month period to build a robot out of Lego that performed twenty tasks in 2.5 minutes. The kids also had to answer questions about the robot, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of how the Lego robot worked.



Teams must apply their knowledge of technology to the event's "real life" theme. This year's theme was "nature's fury." The Yemin Orde team chose to focus their demonstration based on the 2010 Carmel Forest wildfire that tore through Yemin Orde.

The team interviewed members of the local fire department and studied the challenges that arise in wildfires. The kids learned about the difficulty of seeing what's happening beyond the flames of a wildfire, due to the heat and the height of the flames.



How did they robotically solve the challenges that a limited field of vision presented? The answer: With a special instrument, held by a balloon, that could rise over the flames. On the day of the competition, the team presented their solution to the judges.

Robotics – a combined field of computer science and engineering – is one of the advanced courses of study offered at Yemin Orde. The FLL competition helps get

our 9th graders excited about the field of Robotics and encourages them to choose Robotics as their major beginning in 10th grade.

About Yemin Orde Youth Village

Yemin Orde Youth Village is located in the Carmel Forest region of northern Israel, just outside Haifa. It is home, school and safe haven to hundreds of at-risk immigrant youth from all over the world, including Ethiopia, the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and South America. The children at Yemin Orde have all experienced trauma: from abandonment and isolation to loss and extreme poverty. With the help of the Village's dedicated staff, educators and professionals, they cultivate self-esteem, leadership skills, strong cultural identity and a positive outlook on life. The promise that "Yemin Orde is always there for you" is not an empty statement to its graduates, teens and children. Graduates receive a wide range of services including scholarships and emergency financial support. The Village's "Home Away From Home" Graduate House is available for short or lengthy stays. At Yemin Orde, the children find a family and a future.

Friends of Yemin Orde is the US-based fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives. Visit www.yeminorde.org for more information.