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CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOLS' O-BOTS TEAM EXPERIENCES SUCCESS IN YEAR 2

The O-Bots, the Charlotte High School FIRST Robotics Team, did remarkably well in their second year. Throughout their build season, they had a blast working together as a well-organized team: some working on computer models and plans, others focusing on the electronics, programming, the building of field obstacles for practice, and creating and updating a website. Of course, everyone got to put in an effort for design brainstorming and the robot's final build. They all had the same objective, and ended up with a great robot.



The team's success last year, their rookie year, really taught them a lot and prepared them for this year, where they're feeling just as accomplished. They'll be prepared for many more years to come. At both of their district events this year, they made it to the playoffs. In the first District Competition, they finished off in the qualifying round making it to rank 7, having the ability to become an alliance captain, and leading in the playoff matches. They made it through the first round of quarterfinals, ending with a score of 101 points. In the second district competition, the O-Bots made it to the semi-finals. In semi-finals they did extremely well in the first round, finishing off with a score of 121 points and beating the top ranked team in the state. The last match was a close one but ended with a loss. The team is proud of what they accomplished.

In addition to the regular season of building a robot, the O-Bots were hard at work this year building a team presence and workshop. The robotics programs at CHS received a grant from DART Foundation to supply tools for a functional workshop. In addition to other local donations, the team has been successful and will announce the Grand Opening of their O-Bots workshop in late May. They built a large orange and black “pit” which makes a grand statement at competitions and makes sure the team gets noticed.

Next year, the O-Bots will be in their final year of a 3-year grant from the state helping them to fund their registration fees and robot supplies. The team will need additional funding in order to continue the endeavor, as the grant is reduced by half in each year. The team is making plans to participate in community events this summer to help raise money and support local needs. Last year, they volunteered at the Charlotte Fly-In and the Alive Gala to help increase awareness about engineering in education and its benefits. The team is hoping to get more community sponsorship so they can continue to offer the FIRST experience for more students in the future.