



Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program

"Opening Doors to the Worlds of Science and Technology for Oregon's Youth since 2001"

www.ortop.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program (ORTOP) is to encourage Oregon's youth of every gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity and race to consider careers in technical or scientific fields.

To accomplish this, ORTOP uses three programs developed and distributed by *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The flagship program, *FIRST* LEGO® League (FLL), is for youngsters from 9 to 14 years old. Working in small teams, they use inexpensive LEGO® kits to design real working robots that can solve problems in an annual Challenge. ORTOP FLL teams bring their robots and Challenge solutions to qualifying tournaments held in communities around Oregon with the top teams from qualifying tournaments then competing again in an exciting Championship tournament.

The Junior *FIRST* LEGO® League (Jr.FLL) is for children from 6 to 9 years old. Teams solve a mini challenge using LEGO building sets. To ensure continuity of interest after FLL, the *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) is for high school ages. FTC teams design and build real working "21st century erector set" style Tetrix robots to solve more complex problems presented annually by the FTC.

At a time when high costs and limited resources are creating challenges for Oregon's public schools, ORTOP provides a much-needed hands-on learning experience that helps keep kids engaged and their eyes open to new career paths and educational options. We expect to have about 4,000 youngsters participate in ORTOP programs in 2011, up from 3,400 children last year.

The estimated value of the budget to deliver the ORTOP program is approximately \$500,000. Two-thirds of the value is covered through in kind gifts primarily in the form of extensive volunteer hours. The cash portion of the ORTOP budget is \$230,000 (less than \$60 per child) for our fiscal year that begins April 1, 2011. About 56% of that will provide for outreach, training, and scholarships to teams that would otherwise be unable to participate. Another 37% is budgeted to deliver the 26+ qualifying and 3 championship FLL and FTC events and 2 Jr.FLL showcase events. ORTOP relies on charitable contributions to fund about 85% of the cash budget. The balance of the funding comes from registration fees. ORTOP is taking measures to operate as effectively and leanly as possible. We have built strong community partnerships to reduce venue costs and our scholarship program is structured with a high degree of accountability.

The bulk of our budget comes from corporations and foundations. In addition to Intel, our primary sponsors in 2010 were RadiSys, TechAmerica Oregon, and Rockwell Collins. Other sponsors included Bonneville Power Administration, Garmin, PH Tech, ONAMI, IBM, ESI, Timbercon, and Vernier Software and Technology.

We can't do this without you. Please help us open the doors to the worlds of science and technology for Oregon's youth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Schafers".

Director, Industry Affairs, Oregon University System
Director, Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program



ORTOP is a program of the Industry Affairs Department of the Oregon University System
ORTOP · PO Box 751, IAFF · Portland, OR 97207-0751 · 503.725.2920 · www.ortop.org