



# News Release

## St. Joseph High School Robotics Team heading to International Competition in Idaho

*For immediate release – February 26, 2025*

St. Joseph High School (SJHS) is proud to announce that its FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team is heading to Nampa, Idaho, for a three-day competition from March 27 - 29, 2025. This exciting event will see the team compete against other high school robotics teams from around the world.

SJHS is a strong supporter of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) programs, fostering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education through engaging robotics challenges. The school has seen significant growth in its robotics program, expanding from one team of four students to five teams totalling 32 students in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) program alone. Students dedicate numerous Saturdays throughout the year to design, program, and build robots for the annual themed competition.

This year's FTC theme, "Into the Deep," challenges teams to create robots capable of navigating a 12ft x 12ft field, completing various tasks during a two-minute, 30-second match. The match includes autonomous and driver-controlled periods, culminating in a 30-second end game where robots can demonstrate climbing abilities.

SJHS has a history of success in FTC, with teams earning multiple awards at regional playoffs, including the prestigious Inspire Award two years in a row. The Inspire Award recognizes teams demonstrating excellence in all aspects of team performance, particularly their engineering portfolio. SJHS also hosts the FLL & FTC Alberta Provincial Championship, which will be held at the school on March 15th and 16th, 2025.

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Beyond FTC, SJHS students are also involved in the FRC program, which features larger, more complex robots, some reaching up to six feet tall. The upcoming competition in Nampa will showcase these impressive machines on a field similar in size to a volleyball court, with many robots designed for climbing.

The school is committed to expanding its robotics program and fostering STEM opportunities. Several student members contribute to Red Deer Polytechnic's community team, the Robot Warriors, supporting both FTC and FLL (FIRST LEGO League) programs.

"We are incredibly proud of our students' dedication and accomplishments in robotics. Their journey to Nampa signifies their hard work and passion for STEM. This competition is a significant milestone for our growing program, and we're excited to see them represent St. Joseph High School on an international stage," said Gary Gylander, SJHS Principal.

SJHS Robotics extends its gratitude to its sponsors: Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, Dow Chemical, FIRST Alberta, and the Argosy Foundation. The team has also raised approximately \$2,000 through fundraising efforts, including online sales and partnerships with local businesses. However, ongoing support is crucial to cover expenses like travel and robot parts, making trips more accessible for students.

To support the SJHS Robotics program, please contact Gail Taylor at St. Joseph High School.

**For more information, contact:**

Phoebe Arcilla

St. Joseph High School Robotics, Computer Science, Esports, & Technical Theatre

P: 403-341-4423

E: [phoebe.arcilla@rdcrs.ca](mailto:phoebe.arcilla@rdcrs.ca)

W: [www.stjosephhigh.ca](http://www.stjosephhigh.ca)