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## Argyll Attack wins big in first year

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Argyll Attack's competition-winning robot

Photo provided

Argyll Attack is headed to the World First Robotics competition.

The Madison-Grant Junior and Senior High rookie robotics team, has done well for themselves this year.

Ranking 30th out of 52 teams after participating in two district competitions and earning the Highest Rookie Seed and Rookie All Star Award, the team has been invited to the First Robotics state championship at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology this week (April 14-16) and the world competition in Houston, Texas next week (April 20-23).

The team is facing an unexpected challenge, however.

Since the team wasn't anticipating doing this well their first year, Argyll Attack's head coach Eric Cale said they did not raise the funds needed to participate in the coming events.

With just over \$2,000 left in their robotics account, they will need approximately \$11,000 more for registration, travel and lodging.

As a result, Argyll Attack is looking for local businesses to sponsor the team to help them achieve this goal.

When asked what benefit businesses would gain by sponsoring, Cale said that, much like NASCAR, they would place a sticker with the business' logo on the team's robot and on their t-shirts.

Additionally, they would be supporting a program that is teaching the students myriad life skills.

"This isn't just a club that does robots," Cale said. "They're learning business skills, how to be a part of a team, how to collaborate and communicate with each other, how to communicate with other teams and form a strategy... It's a lot of skills that will translate into the workplace."

Cale went on to say that the students learn how to use tools like metal-cutting band saws, drills, and other power tools, and many of the students learn engineering design using Fusion 360 computer-aided design software.

Others have focused on learning programming, often from scratch, using command-based JavaScript, and a couple of students have even been learning graphic design to develop the team's logo as well as creating and implementing a marketing strategy.

Argyll Attack is a small team by comparison, with only 12 students to the typical 20 to 30.

“Not having a lot of people makes it harder for us, a small team, to get things done,” said team member Noah Kirby. “For example, if we need a part made, most of our team has to work on it. But the other teams can have a group of four or five people work on it and still have plenty of people left over to work on other things.”

Nevertheless, according to Cale, their recent success has drawn a lot of interest from other students looking to join the team next year.

A few of the team members contributed their thoughts on what going to the world competition would mean to them.

“This would be a wonderful opportunity and would mean so much to me,” Vincent Dye said. “I am really proud of this team and believe that going to this year’s world competition could be a wonderful learning experience for us all.”

“I am really excited! It would mean the world to me (pun intended),” said Blake Westerfield. “I would get so much experience that I could never get without going, and it could therefore improve our team and prepare me for when I go into the workforce.”

Ethan Winchester said, “This would be the biggest achievement for me in my high school career, hands down.”

“Going to world’s is one of the biggest opportunities that I’ve ever had,” said Ty Wigner. “Just being in First Robotics has helped open my eyes to how diverse this world of technology is. It is one of the best things I’ve done.”

“We’d very much appreciate any support you can give and we’re happy to support you by advertising for you.” Cale said, “Even if you don’t give financially, support us in other ways, just cheer us on.”

If you’d like to contribute toward Argyll Attack’s path to State and Worlds, visit their GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/bfe66777> or mail a check payable to Madison-Grant Jr/Sr High School with “Robotics” in the memo line to: Madison-Grant Jr/Sr High School 11700 South E00 West Fairmount, IN 46952.

If you’re interested in sponsorship, email Eric Cale ([ecale@mgusc.k12.in.us](mailto:ecale@mgusc.k12.in.us)) and Scott Ritchie ([sritchie@mgusc.k12.in.us](mailto:sritchie@mgusc.k12.in.us)) with any questions.

