



Education Center
7575 E. Main Street
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Telephone: 480-484-6100
FAX: 480-484-6286
Web site: www.susd.org

Media Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Erin Helm, 480-389-9033

SUSD Robotics Teams Head to World Championship with Charros, Board Member Funding

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (April 13, 2018) When your school qualifies for a prestigious, international robotics tournament and has just 10 days to come up with at least \$20,000 to send your team, it's nice to have friends.

Again this year, the Scottsdale Charros and Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Governing Board member Pam Kirby are lending their financial support so that robotics teams from Chaparral, Desert Mountain and Saguaro high schools can ship their robots, tools and teams to the *FIRST*[®] Championship next week in Houston, Texas. Both Saguaro and Chaparral qualified last weekend at the Arizona West Regional tournament in Phoenix; Desert Mountain qualified at the Arizona North Regional tournament in Flagstaff last month.

Both the Charros and Kirby have committed \$5,000 each to the three teams.

"The Scottsdale Charros are proud to support all of the SUSD students involved in robotics," said Charros Executive Director Dennis Robbins. "We are very excited about Chaparral, Desert Mountain and Saguaro going to Worlds. We congratulate them on their success, and wish them well in Houston!"

Kirby noted that SUSD has established itself as a public education robotics leader in Arizona. "Sending three, separate, high school teams to Worlds in Houston is a testament to the hard work of our teachers and students. I could not be more proud."

Saguaro High School Principal Ann Achtziger is thrilled to be able to send the Sabercats to the world competition for the fourth time in the past seven years. "We are so grateful to be part of a community that provides and helps us sustain these kinds of life-changing, learning opportunities for our students."

Even with the Charros' and Kirby's generosity, the teams need additional support. The Charros are making it easy for the community to make tax-deductible donations to the teams through their website, <https://charros.com/education-initiatives/make-a-donation/>. There, you can choose the school team to which you wish to direct your donation from the dropdown box under 'I would like my donation to go to ...' Fill out your information and hit 'Submit.'

The Charros will pick up credit card fees and administrative costs that may be associated with making an online donation.

High school teams from around the world have been working since January to design, build, program, test and operate robots that can perform prescribed tasks. The premise behind this year's *FIRST*

Robotics “Power Up competitions has been that the robots are trapped in a video game and must defeat the game’s ‘boss’ by moving ‘power cubes’ (covered milk crates), lifting them either to a five-foot-high seesaw platform or stacking them on a floor scale, then suspending themselves by a cable from the seesaw structure.

More than 400 teams from around the world will take part in the April 18-21 Houston *FIRST*® competition, including teams from North, Central and South America, the Middle East, India, China and Australia. FIRST also offers college scholarships, from which past SUSD robotics students have benefited.

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The *Core Purpose* of the Scottsdale Unified School District is *To Ensure All Individual Learners Reach Their Full Potential*. The Scottsdale Unified School District offers 30 schools, serving approximately 23,000 students. School boundaries include parts of Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Phoenix and Tempe. Find more information about SUSD at www.susd.org.