

South Lyon Robotics team, 3641, The Flying Toasters, was awarded the 2017 Ann Arbor Pioneer District Chairman's Award, a prestigious accolade which honors the team that best exemplifies the purpose and goals of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and acts as a role model for other teams to emulate. Recipient teams of this award are invited to the Michigan State Championships that will take place in April.

In The Flying Toaster's 7 year history, this is their 4<sup>th</sup> time receiving the coveted Chairman's Award, making them the youngest team in Michigan history to accomplish this feat. In addition, this will be the team's 5<sup>th</sup> time heading to the State Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> time (could a fourth be in the books for this year?) representing our town at the World competition.

Ron Weber, Robotics Club coach, proudly leads this growing group as they mentor other teams, both locally and abroad, encourage STEM interest in elementary students, and continue to spread the message of FIRST. Diversity awareness has been a major focus for the team, as they work with local girls' organizations, increasing female participation threefold.

Community support is also important to The Flying Toasters. "They spread their assistance into the community by working with our most at-risk youth, holding charitable donation drives for the needy, and conducting local community clean-up projects. They supercharge the arts and athletics departments with technological creations," Weber brags. We are proud to have such an accomplished and giving team to represent us in the STEM field.

Please join us in supporting Team 3641 as they move forward on their journey to the State Championships on April 12, 13, 14, and 15.