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NASA Knights happy with finish in national robotics contest

[By Allison T. Williams](#)

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NEWPORT NEWS — The FIRST Robotics team based at New Horizons Regional Education Centers placed 14th in its division during a national robotics competition in Atlanta this weekend.

Team 122 NASA Knights — a group of high school students representing six local school divisions — designed a robot that can kick a soccer ball for the competition sponsored by FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

"The team is in good spirits," said coordinator Joanne Talmage. "We're happy — we placed 14th out of 84 robots in our division."

While in Georgia, the team learned it had won an award from the Hampton Roads Technology Council.

NASA Knights is the only Virginia team that has participated in the nationals every year, Talmage added.

The team qualified for this year's national competition by winning the Chairman's Award at the Virginia Regional in Richmond on March 20. The Chairman's Award is based on a team's community outreach and its promotion of science and technology, as well as skill in robotics. It is the highest given at the regional level.

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