

# Robotics competition set for Saturday in ISU's Reed Gym

## By University Relations

For the Journal

POCATELLO — Some 20 robots and their teams are competing for first place Saturday at the Southeastern Idaho Lego League Robotics Competition from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at ISU's Reed Gym.

The students, who attend Irving and Franklin Middle Schools, Chubbuck Elementary School, the Gateway School, and Shoshone-Bannock Junior Senior High School, have been building and programming their robots since mid-September.

For the past seven weeks they have spent hours revising their gear ratios, streamlining their robot design, researching nanotechnology, and more in an effort to create an award-winning Lego robot at this year's competition.

The competition, now in its third year, is funded in part by Idaho State University and the

## IF YOU GO

- **What:** Southeastern Idaho Lego League Robotics Competition.

- **When:** Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- **Where:** Reed Gym at Idaho State University.

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National Science Foundation's GK12 program, which funds supplies and ISU engineering students to mentor each of the teams. The competition wouldn't be possible without support from local industry, such as Simplot, which has helped fund several of the teams and the competition itself.

The competition pits robot against robot for over three hours in a series of competitions, which each last 2 1/2 minutes as the robots race to complete over a dozen

different tasks. Teams must also present their research on nanotechnology to a panel of judges and are judged on their robot design and evidence of teamwork — all important skills to future employers.

Stop by for a short period to check out all the different robots, watch them compete, marvel at the team costumes, and enjoy a great sporting event. While the robots fight hard on the field, teams in the past have helped each other off the field repair and rebuild their robot when necessary.

High school students from Pocatello's High School Robotics Team, (HaYwlrE) will be helping out with the competition. They recently received \$5,000 from AMIS, which goes a long way toward the \$15,000 they need to compete in the FIRST high school robotics competition this coming winter in Portland, Ore.