

ROBOTICS NATIONWIDE COMPETITION

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After a day of instruction and weeks of hard work, students at Pocatello High School are putting the finishing touches on a robot they will soon enter into a nationwide competition.

Producer **Matthew Friend** has been following the team's progress and has this report.

For team Haywire, what started as a box of parts and a dream has grown. Long hours in the classroom have paid off and now the team is ready for competition. Kyle Jones is a senior and one of the co-drivers of the robot.

Kyle Jones: "I've been here every single Saturday morning for the last six weeks since the competition kicked off, and we're also here every single day after school for 4 hours... at least.

During the competition the students will put their robot through a series of tasks: Grabbing Tetras and placing them on goals to score points. The students had one final chance to get familiar with the controls before shipping it off to Portland.

Max Clark is another co-driver who believes the team is ready.

Max Clark: "I thought it was going to be kind of poorly made and kind of just get it out there and let it work, but we've really engineered a strong piece of equipment that can do anything in the competition we need."

Cindy Watts, teacher of the robotics program, says she has faith in the team.

Cindy Watts: "I'm confident and I think the students are confident they can get Tetras on the goals and that they can get back across the line and that they can maneuver. I think they've learned an awful lot working with the professional mentors; working with the coaches; working with each other. I think it's opened up some ideas about engineering fields and technical fields for a lot of students."

And no matter how they do at the competition the program is a success.

Cindy Watts: "I've talked with some of the seniors who were maybe wavering and now they're looking even closer at technical fields to go into college. They see it's not just drudgery, it's fun and that the final project is something to be very proud of."

Teaching lessons that will serve them well outside of the classroom.

The regional competition will take place March 10th through the 12th at the Portland

Memorial Coliseum. We'll keep you posted on how the team does.