

of food to benefit the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.

* ISLANDWIDE

Lego League qualifiers

More than 100 teams from Long Island elementary and middle schools competed earlier this month in the FIRST Lego League Qualifying Tournament, held at Central Islip High School.

This year's challenge, titled Nature's Fury, asked students to build and program Lego robots that could solve natural disaster missions. FIRST is an acronym — For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Suffolk County's winning teams and their awards were: Team No. 14684 Tornadoes of Greenlawn, Alliance Team No. 1 and Champion's Award second place; Team No. 9600 Robotics Avengers of Smithtown, Alliance Team No. 1 and Inspiration awards; Team No. 6897 Saxton Rockin' Robotics of Patchogue, Mechanical Design Award; Team No. 5288 Gear Heads of Rocky Point, Programming

Award; Team No. 4803 4-H Robot Crafters of Yaphank, Strategy and Innovation and Research awards; Team No. 5570 Chickenators of East Moriches, Robot Performance second-place award; Team No. 1393 Clayton Huey Red Devils of Center Moriches, Robot Performance second place and Inspiration awards; Team No. 8434 Rocky Point Radical Robotix, Robot Performance second place and Innovative Solution awards; Team No. 18146 Eagles of Copiague, Research Award; Team No. 1318 Junior Canes of Westhampton Beach, Inspiration Award; Team No. 6424 Blue Point RoboPhantoms, Gracious Professionalism Award; Team No. 10655 Finley Falco Techs of Huntington, Judges Award; Team No. 11576 William Floyd/Girl Scouts of Suffolk County and Team No. 2878 Tesla Empire of Bayport, Champion's Award.

Most of the award winners are eligible to compete next month in the FIRST Championship Tournament, to be held at Longwood High School in Middle Island. — MICHAEL R. EBERT