

2017 Block Kids Building Competition

Submitted by Committee Chair Karen Mitchell, CBT, CIT

The 2017 Block Kids Building Competition, sponsored by Colorado Springs Chapter 356, was held January 29, 2017 at the East Library and Information Center. Forty area students in grades K – 6 competed using 100 micro Legos and three of the following: a rock, string, foil, and/or poster board. Completed structures included a dog adoption facility, a bank, a jail, a bridge, an amusement park and a SWAT training facility. This year's participants demonstrated vast amounts talent and creativity. As always, our judges were impressed with the in-depth thinking and diversity displayed by our student builders.

Our judges selected Ryan Mitchell, a 5th grade student at Colorado Springs Christian School – Woodland Park, as our overall winner. Ryan built a green amusement park complete with a solar operated monorail roller coaster, a tram that ran on biodiesel fuel and a concession area that featured organic and locally sourced foods along with recycling. This is Ryan's fourth year competing in the Block Kids competition and he is excited to finally represent our chapter at the regional competition.

Thank you to all our NAWIC chapter members who volunteered their time ensuring a smooth competition and furnished prizes, snack and drinks. A special thank you to Allison Mikulecky who could not attend but who emptied the CostCo aisles to make sure we had plenty of snacks for the kids!

In addition, thank you to the following judges who gave several hours of their valuable time and had the extremely difficult job of choosing and ranking finalists:

Cathy Andrew, CCA, Colorado Springs Utilities

Penny Metoxen

Karen Mitchell, CBT, CIT, Double M Concrete LLC

Mark Mitchell, Double M Concrete LLC

Kate Ellis Muniz, NAWIC 356 Charter Member

Tanya Peterson, SimplexGrinnell

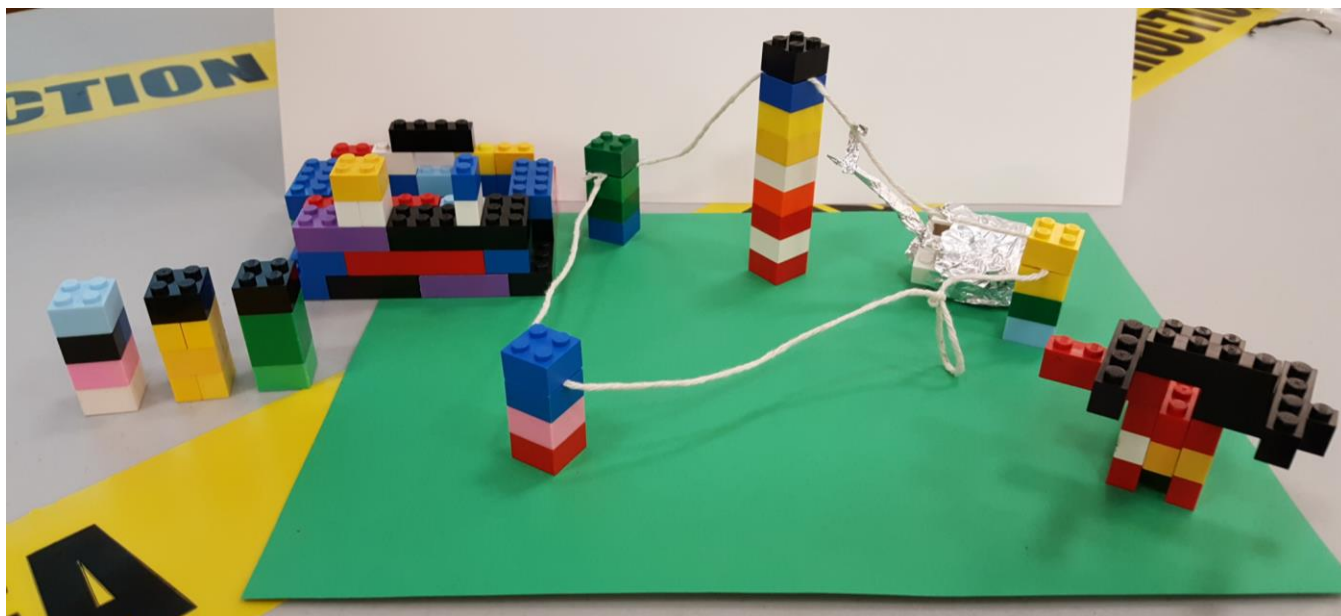
Katie Trapp, CIT, Olson Plumbing and Heating Company

Gretchen Westphal, Encore Electric



Finally, a special thank you to the East Library and Information Center staff who provided us with a meeting room which allowed our competitors to work comfortably.

Below is the amusement park built by Ryan Mitchell. Note the coaster car on the monorail track complete with a loop and a solar panel, the concession stand with its recycling bins (left) and the tram which runs on biodiesel (right front).



These are the students who placed in both age groups.

