

## **2018 Block Kids Building Competition**

Submitted by Committee Chair Karen Mitchell, CBT, CIT

The 2018 Block Kids Building Competition, sponsored by Pikes Peak Chapter 356, was held February 3, 2018 at the East Library and Information Center. Twenty-nine 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 an observatory, a marine biology station and a park. 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 Joshua R., a 3rd grade student at Martinez Elementary School, as our overall winner. Joshua built an environmentally-friendly space observatory with a telescopic dome and three sources of power: solar panels on the roof for the primary power source, wind turbines to power the observatory on cloudy days, and a dam and lake to serve as a backup hydroelectric power source. This is Joshua's third year competing in the Block Kids competition and he was 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.

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

Victoria Bartz, Expense Reduction Analysts

Ally Jencson, Frontline Floor Coatings

Chance Jencson

Naomi Kidd, Arapahoe Fire Protection, Inc.

Penny Metoxen

Leslie Miasnik, Contrack Watts, Inc.

Mark Mitchell, Double M Concrete LLC

Katie Trapp, CIT, Olson Plumbing and Heating Company



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 environmentally-friendly space observatory built by third grader Joshua R. Note the three forms of power: solar panels on the roof, wind turbines (center) and a dam and lake for hydroelectric power (left).



These are the students who placed in both age groups.

