



2016 Chairman's Submission Executive Summaries

- 1. Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding 2-5 years.**

Through participation in *FIRST*®, our team has not only ignited a passion for STEM but also accessed an expanded worldview through programs like Unified Robotics and connections with students in Uganda. Our team has learned teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking skills, which combined with connections made in *FIRST*, allows several members to gain scholarships and internships each year. Our members are inspired to not only gain this knowledge, but use it to bridge the gaps in STEM education.

- 2. Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding two to five years.**

Taking the skills and education gained from *FIRST*®, our team brings STEM into our community and spreads the message of *FIRST* by hosting many events, such as annual summer camps, demos, and teaching STEM related activities to youth at the Ronald McDonald House. Our team participates in community events such as parades, Maker Faire, and Seafair. All of our team members participate in at least one of our outreach events, impacting a diverse group of people in our community.

- 3. Describe the team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message.**

The mission of *FIRST*® is to inspire young people through STEM. A large group of underrepresented minorities that lack opportunities to engage in robotics are students with intellectual disabilities. We have invested our time into starting an inclusive club called Unified Robotics, an innovative way to teach robotics to students with special needs. Our goal is to spread this program to every high school by connecting its *FIRST* team with its special education department.

4. Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other *FIRST* team members to emulate.

Our team infrastructure relies heavily on student leadership. Experienced team members are given the chance to train and mentor new members. This teaches leadership for the mentor and allows the mentee to learn valuable skills. This has led to students taking initiative to start new outreach programs such as Unified Robotics, a program started by student lead Delaney Foster, who was mentored by alumna Belita Ho. We act as role models to younger students and inspire them to find their own passion.

5. Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams

Our team makes every effort to help teams within the FRC community and we are beginning to reach out to start new teams around us. This year, the Titanium Talons disbanded due to lack of school support. We have contacted their lead mentor and are working to help them restart for the coming seasons. We also have plans to work with Washington *FIRST*® to go to Yakima Valley to speak with school boards and help get more teams started in Eastern Washington. to go to Yakima Valley to speak with school boards and help get more teams started in Eastern Washington.

6. Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC)

Within our school, we have succeeded in having approximately 10% of the student body involved in *FIRST*®. We have achieved this by starting, mentoring, and assisting multiple teams across the different grade levels of our schools. We assist four FLL and two FLL Jr. teams within our elementary school and mentor six FTC teams in our middle and high school. This provides younger students with opportunities to familiarize themselves with STEM, so they can grow into leaders within *FIRST*.

7. Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC) with progressing through the *FIRST* program

Our team assists younger teams by hosting FLL and FTC camps to teach teams how to build their robot. We assist teams within the FRC community by making all our resources available on our website and by reaching out to younger teams offering help with strategy and award submissions. Annually, we host an Unveiling Ceremony which allows teams to present their robots, socialize, and make connections with other teams who may have a practice field or a machine shop, bridging the gap between teams.

8. Describe how your team works with other *FIRST* teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced *FIRST* teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC teams)

Our team mentors six FTC teams within our school. We have participated in FTC in 3 days and host FTC workshops. These help the teams develop strategies for their game and show how *FIRST*® is “more than robots.” We work closely with each team, helping brainstorm different mechanisms they could use, strategize for competition, and design and build the robot. Each year, we reach out to rookie and younger teams, inviting them to connect and offer support and resources.

9. Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

We work with a wide range of sponsors; large technical companies such as Electroimpact, Boeing, and Microsoft and non-technical companies such as Lodestar Marketing Group and Reign Sports Management. Mentors from these companies enrich every aspect of our team. We receive a majority of our funding from our school and a local entrepreneur, Ward Phillips. Some of our partners provide direct services and contributions, such as free coffee from Starbucks and our pit display from SuperGraphics.

10. Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the current season and the preceding two to five years.

We continuously work to strengthen our relationships with our sponsoring partners. We do this by posting multiple updates throughout the season to keep our sponsors informed about our progress as well as giving formal presentations and tours around our lab. We invite them to Bag and Tag to watch us wrap up all of our hard work of build season as well as inviting them to competitions and outreach events we attend. Our achievements continue to draw in new mentors and sponsors.

11. For *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams older than 5 years, briefly describe your team's broader impact from its inception.

We are a 3rd year FRC team, but we have been sustaining our outreach since our FTC inception. Internationally, we started a robotics program in Uganda at a school that educates and rehabilitates former child soldiers. We started a FLL team in Los Angeles and worked with them to earn a \$10,000 Google Grant to buy supplies. Locally, we began running summer camps, FTC meets, and workshops. Every year we sustain, grow, and improve our outreach to continue bridging gaps in STEM education.

12. Describe how your team would explain what *FIRST* is to someone who has never heard of it

FIRST® is an organization that wants to spark a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math from a young age. The four programs of *FIRST* equip students with important life and problem solving skills through technical challenges and business development. Advocating further that *FIRST* is "more than robots;" it inspires us to not only compete but to cooperate, teaching us to work together in order to solve tomorrow's problems.

13. Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* judges, if any

We've heard the Chairman's Award is broken, it's too easy for a team to use a checklist to try to win. We are highly competitive, wanting to succeed in everything we do. But what is success? For some it's a champion robot, for others it's the ability to put two LEGOs together. Some people think success is getting into college, for others it's making it to high school. Some people believe it's winning an award, we believe it's sharing what we love with those around us. We threw out the checklist.