

<p>Describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants within the last 3 years. This can include but is not limited to percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, and in FIRST programs as mentors/sponsors.</p>	<p>Our team considers academics to be extremely important, and all of our team members graduate high school. Participation in the FIRST program inspired numerous students to pursue a college education. More than 75% of current members anticipate going to college for a STEM-related career. Our team also teaches leadership, communication, teamwork, and core business skills. Several team members anticipate pursuing project management. Three of our current mentors are alumni of the program.</p>
<p>Describe your community along with how your team addresses its unique opportunities and circumstances.</p>	<p>COVID drove schools to distance learning, canceling extracurricular activities and eliminating lower level FIRST teams in our city this past year and a half. We miss the opportunity to encourage younger students, but the pandemic led to opportunities for our team to serve our community in other ways. We adapted to meet these needs by volunteering at a homeless shelter, assisting at a food bank, and providing school supplies and meals for low-income families.</p>
<p>Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the FIRST message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative. How does your team measure results?</p>	<p>After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, we plan to continue our Making a Difference Camp with a student-designed, VEX robot-based, middle school curriculum this summer. Some citywide STEM events returned this year and we were excited to use our robots to teach kids again. This year's Cool Science Festival attracted nearly 6,000 participants and our interactive display was a big draw. We also brought our robot to events like trunk-or-treats which hosted more than 300 children.</p>
<p>Please provide specific examples of how your team members act as role models within the FIRST community with emphasis on the past 3 years.</p>	<p>One of the reasons we host the annual end-of-build-season scrimmage is to help other teams gain experience prior to regionals. Our team members are also available for technical support and we allow visiting teams to use our facilities. We help other teams with technical issues at regionals and the Kendrick Castillo tournament. In addition, we have shared our business practices and team structure with several teams and we host the Business Exchange at the Denver Regional.</p>
<p>Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other FIRST teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.</p>	<p>Recently, our team has mentored FTC Team 16253, Beastbotics. We've discussed our team's structure, given them tours, and helped their coach learn CNC, as well as allowing him to use our machines. FRC Team 4068, Bearbotics, has also spent time with us learning our team structure. We've assisted many FRC teams, like Hi Fives (Team 4944), Manitou Mustangs (Team 2945), and Highlanders (Team 4499) at competitions with technical knowledge and support.</p>
<p>Beyond starting teams, what initiatives have you done to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What results have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?</p>	<p>In 2016, CGW started the Making A Difference (MAD) Camp for middle school students. We develop and teach the 5-day curriculum, coaching the campers to design, program, and build VEX robots that take part in an FLL-style competition on the final day. We also talk</p>

	<p>about the opportunities available through FIRST. Sixteen past campers have joined our FRC team. We were not able to hold the camp the last two summers, but we look forward to starting again this June.</p>
<p>Describe the partnerships you've created with other organizations (teams, sponsors, educational institutions, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together with emphasis on the past 3 years</p>	<p>Elks Lodge 309 allows us to use their facilities for our annual fundraiser dinner. In return, we help them with outdoor cleanup before their beginning-of-summer party and preparation for other events. Two Men and A Truck transports our field to and from the Denver Regional, helping us provide practice space for other teams. Our school district allows us to use school facilities and team members have given presentations for the School Board, discussing our program and our latest accomplishments.</p>
<p>Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, FIRST, and your communities.</p>	<p>Our team prides itself on its inclusion. We welcome anyone to join us and find a place where they can thrive. We are accustomed to accommodating students with varying needs. Our team members have different backgrounds, interests, and abilities. Since the team is student-led, we need members who are artistic, creative, and business-oriented. We work to keep the cost of membership low and offer scholarships for team trips so that all members are able to attend.</p>
<p>Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will continue to run effectively for the foreseeable future</p>	<p>Our team is student-led and everyone has a voice. Mentors interview and choose the leadership, who is responsible for teaching the team and keeping them on track. Leaders also identify and train a teammate who would be good in their position the following year. The team chooses a motto and goals for our robot every year. This exercise sets the tone for the year while teaching us to compromise and work together.</p>
<p>Describe your team's innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and engage your sponsors within the past 3 years</p>	<p>Pre-COVID, we had a team that performed presentations for our sponsors to keep them up to date on our teams' progress. Many companies are now working from home, postponing our demonstrations for the time being. We invite our sponsors to the January kick-off, our annual fundraiser, and end-of-season sponsor appreciation dinners, where we demonstrate our accomplishments for that year. We also send sponsor newsletters to keep them updated.</p>
<p>Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.</p>	<p>Recruiting sponsors remains one of CGW'S biggest weaknesses. Because of COVID, businesses were hard to contact and we were not able to hold our sponsor events. Our accomplishments were all computer-based and our output was not tangible, so our typical demonstrations weren't possible. This year, we've revamped our contact with sponsors and improved our communication through emails, phone calls, and presentations.</p>
<p>Describe your team's goals to fulfill the mission of FIRST and the progress you have made towards those goals.</p>	<p>Our goals are to excite students about the possibilities available in STEM and inform them about FIRST.</p>

	<p>We've inspired younger children through our MAD summer camp, festival demos, and mentoring an FTC team. Team members learn skills that will help them pursue a STEM career such as CAD, programming, construction, and manufacturing. They build confidence by applying these skills and taking part in brainstorming, leadership, and cooperation. 75% of our current members plan to pursue STEM degrees.</p>
<p>Briefly describe other matters of interest to the FIRST Judges, including items that may not fit into the above topics. The judges are interested in learning about aspects of your team that may be unique or particularly noteworthy.</p>	<p>Our team is truly student-led. Our mentors make suggestions but they allow us to make mistakes. We do not require any experience to join the team. Our community outreach is extensive and we are recognized by local families and businesses. We are the only team in the area that builds a full-sized field and allows other teams to practice on it. We are known for our spirit through our team dance and cheers at competitions, where we invite other teams to join in the fun.</p>