

2021 Chairman's Award Team 2404

Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants/ community with special emphasis on the current season and the proceeding two to five years.

The FIRST program is a great place where young people can learn how to work as part of a team, learn entrepreneurship, and focus on college prep. Our team fosters a sense of community for so many members, and we are so excited to welcome new students each year. Our team is involved in giving back to our community in various ways. Our members often help refurbish old electronic equipment and give it to underserved youth. We gain so much support from our community, so it is very nice to give back to those in need.

Describe the team's creative and innovative ways to spread the FIRST message and how your team members act as role models and inspire other FIRST members.

Our team strives to spread the FIRST message and inspire students from schools all around our district. Team 2404 hosts many events to present our projects to the public. When we host events, we make sure to demonstrate responsibility, professionalism, and teamwork. We also make videos presenting our robots on the internet. We also attend science nights at various schools to show students what we do. During our events, we like to keep things lively by shooting shirts out of our T-shirt cannon. We also have drones with which the kids can play while we talk about the program. Our team takes pride in knowing that we are a part of a program that can help many people. We try our best to be positive role models and representatives for our team and for the FIRST program.

Describe the strength in your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on this season and preceding two to five years.

We have been able to keep very close and open relationships with our sponsors throughout the years. JPL has been able to kindly assist the team in the initial registration fee for regionals competitions. They also have been able to come into the workshop with mentors who help guide and keep the students in motion. NEY, which is another one of our big sponsors, assists us in many helpful ways. From registration fees, to our meeting place/center, the team and mentors are able to collaborate in a safe environment. Having access to these tools and experienced people, we are able to achieve success with our challenges.

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

FIRST is a robotics program where students of all levels can learn new and useful skills. In FIRST, we explore topics such as wiring, programming, robot fabrication, coding, design, marketing, and overall mechanical engineering. FIRST provides many kids with a friendly environment where they can express themselves. Our program can open up so many opportunities for students and gives them a chance to do something they really love.

Please describe any other matters of interest to the judges if any

Our team has made it our purpose to empower and inspire young people in our community through the use of technology. A main goal of ours is to assist youth in their educational pursuits. We hope that we can help encourage students all around PUSD to find something that interests them as a hobby and maybe even a career someday, whether it be related to STEAM or not.

Describe teams' initiatives on assisting other FIRST teams and starting them.

As Team 2404 has been around, we've been invited to many events around the community. Some events include science fairs for schools and even open houses at our center/workshop. As a team we try and make it as engaging as possible to get the kids attention. Aiming to connect with kids ranging from elementary to middle school, hoping to spark their interest and ultimately share the FIRST message with them. We want to encourage them to take the opportunity to join the team and if they aren't old enough we recommend to them that they join other FIRST teams open for their age groups.

Describe how your team works with other FIRST teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced FIRST teams

Our team's goal is to reach out to students in our community who may have an interest in STEAM. To give the newer members guidance, we have recently expanded our staff of mentors who are experienced FIRST members. Our mentors work with less experienced teams to help them learn and understand topics in STEAM and learn how the FIRST program runs. We are so glad that our resources have allowed us to mentor other FIRST teams on their journey.

Describe your corporate/university sponsors

Even with majority of our projects being self funded, we are greatly helped by companies to bring the full experience for the students/team members. Corporations like NASA/JPL, Lockheed Martin, and Octic BBA Aviation provide financial assistance that help fund our many projects. They also provide us with bright mentors that greatly contribute to the team and help us accomplish our obstacles.

For FIRST Robotics Competition older than 5 years, briefly describe your teams' broader impact from its inception

With the inception of Team 2404, we've stood for the production of opening up opportunities, and in doing so we've motivated youth of Pasadena/Altadena to get involved with STEAM Education Learning. PUSD has come a long way since then to adapt STEAM Education into the curriculum of Pasadena schools thanks to First and Team 2404.

New

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.

Describe your community along with how your team addresses its unique opportunities and circumstances.

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?

The *FIRST* program is a great place where young people can learn how to work as part of a team, learn entrepreneurship, and focus on college prep. Our team fosters a sense of community for so many members, and we are so excited to welcome new students each year. Our team is involved in giving back to our community in various ways. Our members often help refurbish old electronic equipment and give it to underserved youth. We gain so much support from our community and we're very thankful.

The community we are proud to be a part of has a wide range of people. Some may be less fortunate than others, but that doesn't mean they are less able to become successful in life. We address these wide range of circumstances with open arms as Team 2404 accepts all members and potential members.

Our team strives to spread the *FIRST* message and inspire students from schools all around our district. Team 2404 hosts many events to present our projects to the public. When we host events, we make sure to demonstrate responsibility, professionalism, and teamwork. During our events, we like to keep things lively and engaging. Our team takes pride in knowing that we are a part of a program that can help many people.

Please provide specific examples of how your team members act as role models within the *FIRST* community with emphasis on the past 3 years.

Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other *FIRST* teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.

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?

Specific examples of how Team members act as role models are the overall respect each member has for each other. With the acceptance of all youth, we have to take underconsideration of what students may be dealing with outside of the program. Team 2404 is a safe place for members to feel comfortable and not have to carry the extra stress around.

As a team we try and make it as engaging as possible to get the kids attention. Aiming to connect with kids ranging from elementary to middle school, hoping to spark their interest and ultimately share the *FIRST* message with them. We want to encourage them to take the opportunity to join the team and if they aren't old enough we recommend to them that they join other *FIRST* teams open for their age groups.

As Team 2404 has been around, we've been invited to many events around the community. Some events include science fairs for schools and even open houses at our center/workshop. We motivate our neighboring students to step out of their comfort zones and take the opportunity to join robotics teams. We want them to know that they can become great scientists or technological leaders one day and provide them with the extra support needed.

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.

Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, *FIRST*, and your communities.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will continue to run effectively for the foreseeable future.

We have been able to keep very close and open relationships with our sponsors throughout the years. JPL has been able to generously come into the workshop with mentors who help guide and keep the students in motion. NEY, which is another one of our big sponsors, assists us in many helpful ways. From registration fees, to our meeting place/center, the team and mentors are able to collaborate in a safe environment.

Team 2404 has always been open to inclusion and values diversity. We've promoted these values through our social media, *FIRST* website, and overall word of mouth through our community. We believe it's important to expose the youth to our differences and teach them to embrace everyone.

Our team's goal is to reach out to students in our community who may have an interest in STEAM. To give the newer members guidance, we have recently expanded our staff of mentors who are experienced *FIRST* members. Our mentors work with less experienced teams to help them learn and understand topics in STEAM and learn how the *FIRST* program runs. We are so glad that our resources have allowed us to mentor other *FIRST* teams on their journey.

Describe your team's innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and engage your sponsors within the past 3 years.

In the past three years, mentors sent from our sponsors have come to guide the students with our projects. This gives the mentors a hands on visual of what we do in the Team 2404 workshop.

Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.

One area in which we as a team need to improve is communication via zoom. Since we're in a pandemic, it's been challenging communicating with the students. With less hands on activities, It's harder to engage as a student. As a team we need to come up with a solution to the lack of hands on activities and make the zoom meetings more appealing to new students.

Describe your team's goals to fulfill the mission of *FIRST* and the progress you have made towards those goals.

As a FIRST Robotics team, we feel the need to spread the FIRST message to all youth in our communities. Some ways in which we have done this is by holding open houses. During these open houses, we display what Team 2404 and FIRST are about. We show potential new comers some of the skills they could learn and even how these skills could benefit them in the future. We want STEAM Education to be available for everyone. So these open house displays are just one example of the FIRST mission.

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.

Our team has made it our purpose to empower and inspire young people in our community through the use of technology. A main goal of ours is to assist youth in their educational pursuits. We hope that we can help encourage students all around PUSD to find something that interests them as a hobby and maybe even a career someday, whether it be related to STEAM or not.

Essay

Being a part of Team 2404 for a couple of years now, I've gained a lot of valuable knowledge and experience. This team accepts all kinds of students and values the idea that anyone can be a part of FIRST regardless of the struggles they may face in life. We've been able to accomplish so much with this team/members and have been able to positively contribute to the community in a number of ways. For instance, we receive hardware and broken electronic equipment from various members of the community, and in turn fix it up for them. Sometimes there's electronic hardware left over and those are given back to the people and businesses in need. FIRST Robotics introduces students like me to the ideas of responsibility, professionalism, and most importantly teamwork.

Within the past few years, students have been able to be involved in many different activities. With this we have gained a variety of important skills. From building our projects, to learning code, students are able to choose and pick up these valuable learning tools and skills. Having a team of kids seems wild, but once you join, you quickly become a part of a family. Our mentors make sure everyone is respectful to each other and as long as students are responsible we are able to work in a healthy and safe environment. Pasadena has begun to pick up STEAM Education and adapt the curriculum into our local PUSD schools. This is thanks to Team 2404 and FIRST programs who help significantly spread the word into our communities.

Our team strives to spread the FIRST message and inspire students from schools all around our district. Team 2404 hosts many events to present our projects to the public. When we are hosting events we make sure to display responsibility, professionalism and teamwork. We also make videos presenting our robots through the internet. We also attend Science Nights at various schools to show what we do with students. Our team takes pride in knowing we are a part of a program that can help so many people. We try our hardest to be positive role models and spread the valuable message of our team and the FIRST program.