

## Chairman's Award - Team 2096

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2018 - Team 2096

### Team Number

2096

### Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Home Skinovations/Hoodies/Israel Ministry of Education/World Ort Education for Life/Negev nuclear research center/Medisim/Amal/3D systems/RASHI foundation/Atza Sushi Bar/NICE/NASA/Karaso Foundation/Bar Banegev/Microsoft/Israel Ministry of Science and Technology&Zinman high school

### Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

Through FIRST, we acquire life skills, with motivation to enter the STEM world and design our life through it. FIRST converted the value of volunteering into a way of life. 100% of ROBOACTIVE have been awarded for their extensive community involvement. Our alumni received the "Ramon Award" and turned on the youth torch at the Israeli independence day. In addition, one alumnus won the "Minister of Education" award. We aspire to be the future Engineers, Entrepreneurs and leaders of the world.

### Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

According to the minister of education: "Dimona is a Robotics Capitol" with FIRST teams in 100% of the schools including special education and kindergarten robotics programs. We have multiplied Dimona's consumer culture of STEM by creating Initiatives as Science Night and Hackathon and making it a tradition. We are building the first suitable park for kids with special needs in the Negev. We inspired our local authority to open a Cyber & Technology college which will provide a national solution.

### Team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message

Innovation isn't only a part of our motto, is the way we operate. We united 12 countries in the Community FIRST day around one goal - spreading Science & Technology. Eventually, this is what FIRST is all about, We're just giving the push. We opened a Laboratory of Robotics & Entrepreneurship that will host worldwide people. We founded a unique "Parents for Parents" program. Our parents visit national FIRST teams' parents and encourage them to be actively involved in their kids' team activities.

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

We believe that anyone can, but not anyone know they can. Our purpose is to make other teams know they can. We consistently mentor 33 FIRST teams from Israel, Cyprus & Brazil. We lecture about our "Active" work model in National conferences as Afeka, MAC, START & The Robotics Academy. "We are very lucky to meet and collaborate with such a great team" (FTC 13906). "You took the word 'Inspire' and replaced it with so much more" (FRC 6061).

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

We are committed to extend the FRC community across the world. As a new veteran team, we share our story on our handbook and lectures to inspire others in order to face challenges wisely and expose other communities to grow in the STEM world. We assisted with opening team 6739 - an arab sector team in Tel Sheba, and team 6404 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. These days, we are working on opening a new FRC team in "Kisra Smia" druze high school in Israel.

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

We brought "YOU-niversity" to support financially the opening of FIRST teams in Dimona and increased the number of teams from 1 team to the biggest number in Israel with 102 teams. After a lot of efforts, we raised 12,500 NIS to open the FTC team 14017 and assisted with opening the first FTC team in Cyprus. In our RoboCamps, we laid the groundwork for future FLL & Jr.FLL teams. We host teachers delegations to inspire them to raise awareness to FIRST & open more teams all around the world.

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

In collaboration with ministers & parliament members we initiated a law submission which will facilitate the economic burden of the Israeli FTC & FRC next generations. We hosted in our workshop over 100 different teams' members at the "START" conference which we founded. We runvented the 2nd MAC conference with teams 4590 & 5928. Apart from being an open house for national FIRST teams, we are also a 24/7 ready resource through Skype, phone calls & social networks for teams all around the world.

**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)**

We feel committed to inspire global FIRST teams by hosting, guiding & leading them to mentor other teams. We work as the "Food Chain" model where we mentor a team, that mentors younger team and so forth. We mentor FRC team 6404 from Brazil & FTC team 13906 from Cyprus. We mentor the FTC team of our school and over 73% of the FLL teams in Dimona. To reach and assist as many teams as possible, we train university students to mentor FLL & Jr.FLL teams according to FIRST's mentoring model and values.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Some of our sponsors support us with finances or resources, some help us with spreading STEM and some do both. We are happy to have in our family: Zinman High School, Amal, WorldOrt, Dimona's municipality, Science, Negev and Galil & Education ministries, Home Skinovation, NASA, HOODIES, Medicim, NICE, "OFEK", Microsoft, Google, INVASIX, "ATZA", "BEYAHAD" - Yoel & Stela Karaso, "Birgei Hadarom", "Idan Hahaluminium", 3DSYSTEM & NCRN who mentor us in the mechanical aspect.

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years**

We see our sponsors as partners who work with us to further STEM in israel and beyond. Some of our sponsors are lecturers and volunteers at our team's initiatives. Our sponsors invite us to personal tours and visit us through building season & competitions. Every year we establish a recognition Sponsors' Event and manage our budget with full transparency. Together, we created an engineering pedagogic program. They are an integral part of our ignition system which drives us directly to our goals.

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

FIRST is a program that every parent and teacher wishes they could have as kids. It enables to access science and technology by giving opportunities that students might have never thought are possible. FIRST empowers students to become leaders in all fields, with gracious professionalism and teamwork as life changing values. It combines the excitement and enthusiasm of sports with real life challenges, and creates the world's next generation of entrepreneurs, engineers and life changemakers.

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

We don't have a "community crew", everyone of us volunteers & initiates in our community contribution. This attitude brought us to an extraordinary volunteering ranges. We bring passion, enthusiasm & creativity to any of our initiatives. We believe that as a FRC team, we have the power to make a difference. Apart from our contribution in our community, we encourage others to do as well in their own. We see ourselves as a professional small High-Tech company that has a power to change the world.

**Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission.**

Ziv Itzhak

## Essay

We are RoboActive 2096 from Dimona, Israel.

Our vision is to expose every person we can reach to the power of STEM & FIRST, and make him believe that robotics isn't just about robots. Now, we have a mission - to make it happen in as many communities as we can across the globe. We have a clear goal - to create an inspiring corporate culture that combines our vision & core values while fulfilling the message of FIRST in the best way we can.

### Our story

We established our team in 2015 as a "New Veteran" team. After 3 years in the FLL, we knew we're not going to stop. The 1st year was a struggle- we had no workspace, mentors or resources. Raising funds, while contributing in our community wasn't easy. But we didn't waste any time, and raised over 29,000 NIS by ourselves through car washings, 2nd hand books sales, collecting bottles for deposit and sales stands at different events. Afterwards, we realised making it happen will require a lot more support. We started with finding sponsors and mentors, but we had never thought that they will mean so much to us. They are an integral part of our family, our STEM heroes and ignition system. We are so proud to say that the small empty workshop we had 3 years ago, became a Laboratory of Robotics & Entrepreneurship that hosts every year hundreds of ministers, parliament members, CEO's, principals, teachers delegations & teams from all around the globe.

### Our Team

RoboActive is a robotics family of 38 students from 10th - 12th grade, 9 volunteering engineers from the NCRN and 2 teachers. 100% of our team members volunteer at least 2 hours a week. Our alumni are role models for us. They encourage us to attend technological roles in our military service as their own. They declared that they will absolutely mentor FIRST teams in the future. Some of them even continue to volunteer in FIRST competitions. One of our alumni, will open a "Social & Business Entrepreneurship" school in Jerusalem. In different awards, our alumni were chosen out of thousands of students all over the country. This because of their phenomenal community contribution not just in Israel, but across the world.

### WorldWide Impact

ROBOACTIVE make an impact across the sea, by creating a sustainable volunteering community that inspires others to do the same. 2 years ago, we initiated the Community FIRST day - an international STEM volunteering day of the entire FIRST community. As Woodie Flowers, FIRST founder said: "The bad news is that people all over the world are being torn apart. The good news is that Community FIRST is pulling them back together". We collaborated with 189 teams from Israel, USA, Canada, Romania, Turkey, Mexico, The Netherlands, Australia, Paraguay, Chile, Brazil & Bosnia. In the first year, we had 112 teams from 9 countries involved. A year after, the numbers grown to 120 from 12 countries. Most of the teams participated at both days, and 96% of them declare that they will absolutely do the same next year. We are more than proud to say that in this day 3100 volunteers inspired almost 17,000 participations (data based on feedback answered by 44.8% of the teams). FTC team 6041 said: "Sharing Dean Kamen's vision for FIRST teams. How inspiring!". This is the second year we proudly cooperate with the international FIRST organization. We believe that one day CF will become an official FIRST volunteering day. We assisted with opening the first FTC team in Cyprus. We mentored the team at least once a week during building season, lectured them about mechanics, safety & FIRST's values, prepared them to the judges presentation and even escorted them over their whole visit in Israel & competition. 2 years ago, we started an "English Program" to FRC teams 1382 & 6404 from Brazil using video calls & Webinars, we improved their English not just for the FIRST experience, but for their lives. As Don bossi, FIRST's president said: "They helped make the lives of people around the world better".

### Dimona's DNA Revolution

Dimona is a small city in southern Israel, ranked 5 of 10 at the socioeconomic ranking. Over the years, we created a whole new corporate culture of STEM subjects in our city. 7 years ago, we were opened as the first FIRST team. Now, Dimona has the biggest number of teams in Israel with 102 teams in 100% of schools. We are extremely proud to say that we transformed the city into a "Robotics Empire" where 1 out of 8 pupils takes part in a FIRST program. Inspired by our extraordinary influence ranges, our local authority decided to open a Cyber & Technology college in Dimona which will provide a significant national solution. Collaborated with our municipality & WorldOrt, we established the "Science Night" - We host whole families from all across the city and celebrate the world of science. At the 1st year, only 200 people joined the celebration. In 6 years we had over 5,000 people. In collaboration with NASA, Israeli Air Force & Guinness World Records, we initiated the first ever Aeronautics & Space event in Dimona - "AeroSpace Day". Over 1500 students and 44 lecturers including FIRST Israel founder, Avihu Ben Nun. We initiated Dimona's first Hackathon with more than 30 teams from all over the country. This is the 3rd year we run our "Taste of Science" course, and expose dozens of toddlers to science & physics fun activities. This is the 5th year we operate the "Virtual Olympics" with more than 1,000 elementary schools students. We collaborated with Microsoft in their "Hour Of Code" program. We lectured 6th grade students from the African Hebrew Israelite Nation about Computer science and showed them the fun parts of technology.

### Peace Through Robotics

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Shimon Peres, the 9th president of Israel said: "Politics splits the world, but technology unites them all". We fulfill the coexistence vision in our community initiatives. In our CF day we cooperated with a team from Turkey. It was amazing to discover that the team shared our post written in Hebrew. A year ago, we assisted with opening a FRC team 6739 in the Bedui sector in Tel Sheba. During the building season, we brought them equipment and even prepared them to the judges presentation. These days, we are working on opening a new FRC team in "Cisra Smia" Druze school. We hosted FTC team members of a Bedouin Diaspora school in Hura. We truly believe technology is the key for global peace, and we are ready to prove it.

**When Dreams Become Reality**

We believe that everyone's dreams are made to come true. This is the 3rd year we volunteer in the "Tzabar" school for kids with disabilities. After we noticed that tenth of the school's students, are Wheelchair-bound what makes it impossible for them to enjoy the school's playground with their friends, we couldn't stand aside, we engineered a suitable playground that eventually wasn't used due to legal liability. We didn't waste a second, and started with raising funds for professional accessible facilities. We managed to recruit 100,000 NIS from our municipality, but it wasn't enough. After 44 days of tons of hard work through mass mobilization we raised other 100,000 NIS from people from all around the world. Now, the playground is on building process, and expected to be completed at April 2018. 2 years ago, we establish our "House of Engineers" program for youth at risk in dimona. The program combines principles of STEM with our team's core values and opens a hatch to a new world, where dreams don't have to be simple or easy, but everything is possible.

**Giving Back to FIRST**

As Yaarit Levi, the CEO of FIRST Israel said: "You are an amazing FIRST ambassadors of Israel and the world". We collaborated with the minister of finance and initiated a law submission that will grant refunds to FIRST teams for taxes payments. We even visited the Israeli parliament to promote the submission and raised signs from all around the country in our petition. These days, the submission is promoted in different plenums by 2 parliament members. We are sure that the law will change the future of the Israeli FIRST teams for generations. We are partners of FIRST in FTC & Jr.FLL. Over the years, we volunteered in 100% FTC competitions & hosted different FIRST events, with a total number of over 6100 volunteering hours in all kinds of FIRST events. This year, we started a 12 Jr.FLL Pilot in kindergartens in Dimona. We see gracious professionalism as one of our main core values. Beside the teams we mentor, We assist 78 Jr.FLL teams, 20 FRC teams and 7 FTC teams.

**Girls in Front**

We aim to increase female involvement in our team, and generally in FIRST. We see that as the first step to a future equal gender participation in the STEM workforce. 5 of our 6 leading crew members are girls, with general participations of 42% and a woman head mentor. Even in our FLL teams we aim to have 50% girls. This year, we opened the first Jr.fll team in the Ultra - Orthodox sector of girls only. 4 years ago, we established the "Girls to Science" program, for girls in 9th grade collaborated with "Amal". Over the years, we raised 75,000 NIS for the program. Last year, we advanced it to a "Active Girls" program where we take women role models and aspire the girls to become a role model themselves. This year, our team's girls were chosen to be the ambassadors of Google's "Mind The Gap" - "MentorIt" program. They lecture girls from 9th grade about Computer Science and encourage them to choose it as their future school major. We are proud to say that our efforts proved themselves and the number of girls who choose STEM subjects grown significantly.

Following our motto- "Building the future in our hands", we are changing the reality while being a role model with a straight look to the future. All the things we have done, made us who we are- dreams fulfillers, reality changemakers, a whole world teams' motivators, or briefly - RoboActive.