

Chairman's Award - Team 6106

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2018 - Team 6106

Team Number

6106

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

PrepaTec Irapuato/General Motors Mexico&Tecnologico de Monterrey Campus Irapuato

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

" The main impact that this team has on its members is the element of inclusion, when people work on this team, they know that each and everyone of them has something to give in; some of our members are better with tools and electronics while others are better with planning, finances and treating people, the synergy that exists within the team makes up for huge potential, inside the team and in their everyday life. "

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

"Our team, using the values of FIRST, has done several projects that impact our community. We invited international speakers, became judges in local events, and more; but today, we have a more active role, coaching a local FLL Team and hosting events such as the FIRST Robotics Fest. Even though we are currently working in a lot of projects, LatinoBotics is the biggest project we have right now, enclosing the talents of our teams to make Latin America the next spotlight for robotics. "

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

"We really enjoy teaching through our testimony by involving our community. Our team knows that people is interested in different fields; in response to this, we innovated the way of spreading the FIRST message with videos to show everything Tec Gear is about and organizing meaningful events for people to participate, not to watch (TRF, FRF, R&SF). also, we created Latinobotics. A project for all the Latino FRC teams. "

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

During the competition, the members hold a competitive spirit that helps us concentrate. Partnership is the main principle of our team. If one of the members feels upset, the whole team would say something recomforting and try to cheer things up. Since we plan activities and goals in advance, the whole team is enrolled in everything, so everyone knows each detail about projects. Partnership is, as we said, the base of Tec Gear and the principle that motivates us to continue inspiring others.

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

We really enjoy giving them some help based on our experiences and knowledge. The past regional, we invited Prepa TEC Zacatecas to encourage them to open a new FRC Team, since then we have been supporting them to reach that goal. Finally with our project "LatinoBotics" we impulse the creation of new FRC teams in Latin America by helping them through a web server shared with other Latin American teams.

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

We have been mentoring our Junior High School team during two FLL seasons and als we encouraged a second team of our city to be part of this and on top of that we have invited them to our events. We really enjoy giving them some help based on our experiences and knowledge. Finally with our project "LatinoBotics" we impulse the creation of new *FIRST* teams in Latin America by helping them through a web server shared with other Latin American teams.

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

"*FIRST* participants develop skills related to teamwork, entrepreneurship and leadership. Teamwork is the key to success. Students also learn that from this, they can come up with totally new ideas, moreover they can help society with them. We believe that what we discovered is more important than winning, we love sharing our experiences with other teams, such as TEC Engine (our FLL team) and Zacatecas team by assisting them in our campus, also through social networks.

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 have helped First Lego League Jr. by giving them tips of how to organize, teaching how to use the available resources. We help to create a new group of robotics in Campus Zacatecas giving advice before competition. We were hostess on the First Robotics Fest. We like receiving messages from other teams when they have an issue with their robot and it's always a pleasure to help. We contact Rookies teams to know how they are doing and to assist them with the help of LatinoBotics."

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

"The sponsors that sustain our team are very diverse. We are not only sponsored by big companies, we also have local businesses supporting us. Our main sponsors are the Tecnológico de Monterrey and General Motors, two companies that are really passionate with helping the youth. Thanks to the invaluable support they provide us, we have been able to attend to multiple national and international competitions. "

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

"Our partnership is a great connection that we have with experienced people because all our sponsors are helpful in different areas. For example, some of them do not only give us financial help, they are also involved with our team by providing tools, food, mentoring and materials for the whole season. It wasn't hard at the beginning to get in touch with them thanks to our current location. We can proudly say that without them, we would not be able to be where we are right now. "

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

"*FIRST* is the execution of applied sciences in a fun way. It's getting to meet people from all over the world and showcase your abilities in robotics. Is an unique experience where you develop extraordinary talents that will be useful for the rest of your life. *FIRST* means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology", but its meaning goes beyond these letters, it means opportunities. Opportunities that might transform the world.

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

Our philosophy and organizational system is an analogy to a machine, in which we consider each member of the team as a Gear and without it, we would not work properly, in other words, a priceless piece for us. And as long as we continue having energy, we will keep being functional as new generations of Gears will keep taking the places of their predecessors.

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

Andrés Sánchez

Essay

"What is Tec Gear? We spent some time thinking of a single way to describe our team, but we couldn't find one. It is a chance to become a change agent, to make an impact in the world. It is also a way to inspire other people, and to motivate them to stand up and do something. But mainly, we are a family. A family who loves helping each other out, who loves teamwork, who never gives up and always look for the best solutions for new problems.

We also look for the development of our community, always trying to help to make a better place out of it. We do that in order to accomplish our mission, which is to inculcate teamwork and communication abilities to students, but also to spread our passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the help of robotics.

Our vision is to get to be a competent team, achieve our goals, and spread our knowledge of science and technology in an interesting and enjoyable way. But by being part of this team, we have not only learnt about science and technology, teamwork or entrepreneurship, but we also know how to apply all of this in real life. Tec Gear has taught us things that we wouldn't have been able to learn anywhere else. It has changed all of us, in a good way, and every single one of the experiences we have had has made us grow as people.

One of the characteristics our team has is creativity. We always try to do everything in in the most original way possible, sharing all of the ideas that come to our mind. We also spend a lot of time looking for ways to innovate and improve. We are a very persistent team, and we consider ourselves very committed and humble.

But the thing that defines us the most is our attitude. When we face a big problem, make a mistake or fail in something, we never give up. Instead, we use it as a motivation, we learn from that, and try to prepare and get better for what comes next. That is what makes us different, our defeats only make us stronger.

As it was mentioned earlier, our community is very important for us. One of the things we enjoy the most is social work. For example, once a week different members of the team go to Casa Cuna, which is a home for kids who have suffered of family problems. We go to read them tales and play with them. The purpose of this activity is to brighten their day and make spend a good time.

We also go every month to the Hospital General in groups. We bring food and water to the people waiting for their relatives outside, who sometimes spend days without eating anything. We do this in order to help the people in need of our city.

Twice a semester, we invite kids from a near community named Noria de Camarena, to teach them physics experiments, such as catapults, show them our robots, and at the end, we also play recreative games. The objective of this activity is to spread our knowledge and love for science and technology in an entertaining way.

Every year, at children's day, the government calls us for an event the do in the Parque Irekua, which is the biggest public park in our city. We take our robot, and we demonstrate them its functions and how it works. The activity is done with the point of getting young people interested into robotics and to get more people to know about our team.

Another activity we carry out is the mentoring of the middle school team. We instruct and guide them to build their robots with an open mind, give them advices from the experience we have, and help them solve their doubts and problems out. We do this according to help them get good results in the competitions they are part of, and to invite them to be a part of our team when they get to highschool.

The awarded science project that we have had since 2015 is Enabled, which consists on creating 3D printed prosthesis that are given for free to people with economical issues, as a way to support them. Currently we have an agreement with CRIT Guanajuato, where they tell us about people who need our help, so we can assist them.

One of our bigger strengths are our sponsors. This is because of our location, since we are in a zone where there are a lot of industrial entrepreneurship innovation parks. It is really easy for us to get sponsors because we have similar interests thanks to our projects, every time we need money and goods we just go and ask for help. We have several of them, and each one helps us with different things.

General motors is the strongest, they mentor us, provide us contacts and on the building season, they stay with us and help if we have any difficulties. PrepaTec is also really important for us because the pay for the inscription for all of our regionals, they also give us money, mentors and space to work which has basic services and a workshop. Our newest sponsor is Santander, they gave us a great amount of money which helped us to pay the rest of the inscription for the regional of Canada and some materials. Another of our most important sponsors is Universidad de Guanajuato because they lend us their telescopes and they give us conferences for our events.

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Some other sponsors are SIIAC, from Silao, who donates us materials, Tablapack, who supply us wood and pieces of it and SSI, who gives us money and is going to create a website for us. There is also Café Punta del Cielo, they provide us coffee in some events and in the construction season. Explora, which is in León city, they sometimes come to our events to support us and bring some dynamic activities, 2RIDE, who also support us in our events, and finally Guanajoven, they give us contacts help us in the diffusion of events.

We are also in the process of getting new sponsors. Our goal is to sign a contract with LEAR Corporation, Sacsá and Robotec. We want this in order to get help for the regional, to acquire materials and to have more money for the competitions.

Another strength we have is the organization of events and the logistics of them. We have had several that had helped us to get to know other Robotics teams. For example, First Robotics Fest was an event in which more of 20 teams around the country came to our campus. Different courses and workshops were given and several local businesses of science and technology put a stand where they made dynamic activities and showed their products.

Tec Robotics Fest was a camp, where we invited students from our school to try what TecGear is about. The leaders of every area gave workshops and showed their work to all the participants. At the end of our event, we gave awards to the people that had the best attitude, the best team spirit, etc.

Last December we had a camp where we invited Aztech Robotics 4775 to come to our campus. They instructed us and gave us several advices to improve our work, and we got to spend time and get to know them. We also showed them around Guanajuato, taking them to the most stunning places of our capital, being the birthplace in Mexican independence.

Robotics and science fair is a project we are planning for April of this year, where we will develop a new competition for all the students of primary and middle school to help them to develop science projects that help to solve community problems. It is an event filled with the best people, companies and activities. The winner will have the opportunity to participate in a US fair as a STEAMIE project.

Jobs is a project created from our awareness of intellectual property and entrepreneurship in our country and its neediness in Latin America. With this project we attend to patent most of our robots mechanisms in order to increase the statistics and create a new habit about innovating and help the development of technology.

Latinobotics is a long term project in process, the biggest one so far, in which we create a networking web for all the Latino FRC teams, with the purpose of sharing all of our projects, its logistics, our knowledge, so they can be able to carry them out in their countries, for the diffusion and growth of the FIRST community, the passion for science to boost a future technological evolution in all Latin America. In addition, we have the intention of opening an economical fund to give away scholarships to Latin American teams so they can be able to come to Mexico and to sign up for a regional to experience a cultural exchange in high levels.

We are also one of the most powerful teams in social media, due to our constant content in several social platforms, in which we use to spread our meaning of the FIRST message and information about our team to inspire others by sharing with them news, photos and videos of our activities and progress.

Besides all of the characteristics mentioned above, we are also distinguished for our dedication. The dedication that we put into everything we do, no matter how big or small the task is, we always give all we can for what we are getting done.

We are also a team of dreamers, because each one of us is always thinking of different ways to improve, to help the needed and to make a difference, but what we do the most is to set high goals for the benefit and development of the group, because challenging ourselves is the best way to advance as a team.

But the secret of what really makes us what we are, and got us to where we are now is our teamwork. We like to think of ourselves as an engine. That may sound kind of weird, but we say this because every member of the team is as important as the other. We may all have very different jobs, but the only way of working in the best possible way is if we get together, do our best and work all as one. For us, that is the key to success, and the best way to be the best team.

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