

## Chairman's Award - Team 6314

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2018 - Team 6314

### Team Number

6314

### Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

SOAR/Boeing/DM Site Council and DM P.T.O./33 North Partners/Feingold Family Foundation/Employees of Microchip&Desert Mountain 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

Team 6314's goal is to show students that hard work has its benefits by getting them college/workforce ready. Our team has students in IB, AP, Honors, Special Ed and Gen Ed classes. FIRST has transformed our school and our students. Students work harder in school and look forward to and enjoy school more because of our program. Since our inception we have grown from 18-125 interested students. Students from our team work with teams from around the world sharing their passion for Robotics.

### 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

The past two seasons have been rewarding for our community. We worked with coaches to shoot giveaways during sport events. We worked with special needs students who interacted with our robot and became part of our team. We challenged our school board to make Robotics a class. It passed in all 5 SUSD High Schools! We just proposed that next year our class will be an honors class where students will come up with innovative ideas to promote STEAM and FIRST via outreach events. It just passed!

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

6314 reached 100,000+ people in person and 1,000,000+ on social media. 6314 has been on Channel 3 and 10 News, and on radio 1510 AM and 99.3 FM. We were in several major publications including The Scottsdale Independent. Our social media presence has reached 1,000+ people in AZ and 10,000 people on YouTube. We introduced 300,000+ people to FIRST at Barrett Jackson Auto Auction. We promoted FIRST by having our robot carry Sophia, the world's first robot with citizenship, at the Innovation Fair.

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

Our team is more than just building robots, it's about promoting what we do to inspire and help. At competition we give teams a safety bag, a good luck gift, and a flag with our phone number to let us know if they need help so that we will find the most qualified assistance for them. We hold classes to assist teams. For ex. a team member set up a workshop at kickoff to promote starting and sustaining FIRST teams. Our social media followed by 900+ people are used to promote STEAM and to assist.

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

During our rookie year we needed support so this year we have made it our priority to help start FIRST teams and support them. We have helped teams in Arizona, Texas, California, Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. Most recently we have helped a team in Greece which is the first ever FRC team in Greece. Next year we are looking to expand and start FRC teams in South Africa, Ecuador, and other South American countries. We continue to push our limits and work hard to achieve our goals of make FIRST known.

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

Our team believes that the best way to spark someone's interest is by starting young. That is why we take all levels of FIRST so seriously. We noticed that students who have been a part of multiple levels of FIRST are often the most mature and prepared for FRC and post high school endeavors. For this reason DM Robotics has made sure that every feeder school in our district is or will be involved by the 2019 season. DM Robotics works with multiple teams in an attempt to get them ready for FRC.

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

To assist other FIRST teams, we created the Support 4 Success program. In this four part program we have many resources including our progression program to help sustain and start new teams. To aid in our mission we are working with AZ FIRST to organize a VIP section for all FIRST teams to attend to learn about this amazing program. We also created many contacts at our FLL Qualifier to come and see what FIRST has to offer by creating field trips to see what they will be doing in their future.

**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)**

During the 2018 season, DM Robotics has made a major presence and changed the lives of many young students in the elementary and middle schools. One of the biggest ways that we have made our mark on FIRST is by co-hosting our own FLL Qualifier. By doing this we were able to broaden our horizons and meet many students and help teach them about FIRST. We also help out different FLL teams across Arizona and look forward to adding FTC teams to our feeder middle schools in time for the 2019 season.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Boeing, Wells Fargo, Employees of Microchip, 33 North Partners, SOAR, M.C.L. Dust 4 U, Feingold Family Foundation, Auctionix, College Board, G.C.U., DMHS Site Council, DMHS P.T.O., West Pharmaceutical, Arrowhead Periodontics and Dental Implants, Axway, Kadima Innovation, Scottsdale Charros, SUSD Board Member Pam Kirby, and Friends and Family of Desert Mountain HS. We are proud to be partners with these great sponsors inviting them to be a part of our team. We also have 5 anonymous partners.

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

Members of DM Robotics learn to recruit money, present in front of groups, and write grants to recruit sponsors. We increased our sponsors from 7 to 25 in one year including 5 anonymous sponsors. Students thank each sponsor and invite them to events as special guests. Sponsors are invited to follow our social media pages and website where their name is shared. Our future plan is to increase our sponsors by at least 25%, and maintain current sponsors. Last year we maintained all sponsors.

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

Our team describes FIRST as the best program that any of us have ever been a part of. It truly is "The hardest fun you will ever have!" FIRST allows its members to learn skills to get college and workforce ready. It allows members to find a hidden passion for something they would have never thought they would have ever had an interest in. This amazing program is called FIRST Robotics.

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

Our team may only been around for 2 years, but the drive is like no other. FIRST changed the lives of every member on our team and made each student stronger in so many ways. Our team is not a six week build team, instead we are a year round team who is always thinking of ways to grow and promote what we do. We do this because we feel privileged to be part of a program that gets us ready for the real world. FIRST brings out the best in us all and our goal is to spread this around the world!

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

Jake Okun

## Essay

DM Robotics "The Wolfpack" started with the goal to become the Rookie All Star at a regional competition last year. Now, our team is known to many as the 2017 Carver Sub-Division Champions. "FIRST has changed our lives!" states our team members. Our team has learned a great deal along the journey, and now it is our time to give back. While it was our goal to increase interests towards STEAM, our team made it their mission to reach towards the communities that weren't directly involved with Science and Technology.

This academic year kicked off with Robotics becoming a class where students receive academic credit. In January 2017, our coach proposed to the district that Robotics should be a class as part of the district's curriculum. This meant that every high school planning guide would describe FIRST Robotics exposing STEAM to over 100,000 people. In May 2017, The Wolfpack challenged the board during a board meeting to add Robotics to the course selections. Students said, "If we can build a robot in 6 weeks, then can you build a class in 6 weeks?" Due to our team's efforts all five high schools in our district now offer robotics as a class.

Last season, The Wolfpack's rookie year, was amazing! This wouldn't have been possible without the guidance of our mentors. Knowing what we went through as a rookie team, our team made a goal to support other rookie teams during their first season. A program was created by a team member called "Drive with the Wolves." This program can be viewed at [tinyurl.com/drivewiththewolves](http://tinyurl.com/drivewiththewolves). The program though aimed at rookies, is open to anyone who is looking for resources and ways to sustain their FRC program. The Drive with The Wolves Program is comprised of four major sub topics that include a categorized resource library filled with over seventy-five different resources. In addition, we set up a Rookie Hotline at (470)-2DM-6314. With this hotline, teams can call us and will be directed to team member with experience in that given field. Some examples of these fields may include: CAD, Business, Scouting, Electrical, Mechanical, Awards, and Programming. Many calls have been received and we are always there with great enthusiasm. Another great part of this program is that our team gets to meet people from around the world and not only help them out, but learn from each other. We learn from the advice given as it helps our team think deeper about what we are doing. To our team this is a win win for everyone.

The Wolfpack has had a successful year in helping the rookies to POWER UP for this year's season. Our team has started 7 teams and our outreach continues to grow. We have helped teams from Michigan(7226), Texas(6898), California(6814), Mexico(6922), Brazil(6902), and Chile(6955). Most recently we have helped a team in Greece(6839). During the build season so far, we have conducted multiple video conferences with these teams to help them with design, ideas, strategies, and most importantly put their minds at ease during this stressful, but rewarding time. Our Drive with the Wolves program has helped these teams establish their fundraising plans and help find sponsors for them. The entire program has opened up doors for so many. Next year, our goal is to pay for an entire new rookie team's competition fees.

While our main focus was to help the rookie teams this year, we didn't forget our feeder schools. Every Thursday, team members went to one of our feeder school's robotics teams to mentor them. We strategized along with the young students, taught them programming languages and also prepared them for other things like projects at the competition. Our team members have also volunteered at FLL tournaments to inspire young budding engineers further into the field of STEAM. The experience opened up our eyes to the other side of competition, helping us realize important lessons. One lesson we all learned was about core values and how important they are to being successful in the future.

Known as a bunch of nerds, one of our main goals was to also reach out to different communities within our school to promote STEAM and show our peers that science and technology is not only for nerds, but for everyone. We traveled within the State of Arizona making it our mission to change the image of others about Robotics. We feel our efforts in our community have been flooded with positive feedback and acceptance. It is exciting to see how many people want to be part of our program now in some way or another. Our team grew from 18 members to 125 interested students. Here are some of the highlights of what the Wolfpack has accomplished in one year:

Using last year's robot, we engaged the special needs students by immersing them in fun while catching the fuel shot from the robot and playing fetch with it by throwing the gears around. They learned to be safe and also have an experience that they still talk about. Some students were taught how to drive our robot, shoot balls, and climb the rope. They love dropping by our class to help us work on new tasks.

Members of our team promoted FIRST and Robotics through DECA, a business club on campus. Our business plan was used by one of our members to take part in the Entrepreneurship Promotion Award at the DECA competition. The DECA teacher on our campus gives us feedback and helps teach our members about business plans and why they are so important in the business world. Students are able to get real life experiences by being part of our fundraising and Marketing/Branding team.

The graphic design teacher at our school assists students in making brochures, posters and t-shirt designs for our team. Our logo was designed by a member of our team who has won many awards for the great work. This helped increase interest among the students in that class to join the robotics team because they saw that robotics had much more than just building robots. Brochures and posters that were developed were entered in competitions exposing millions of people to what we do.

Our last year's robot, Sir Brewster, was the audience's favorite at the Basketball team's kickoff. At the intervals, Brewster went around the court shooting balls at the audience and for every audience member that caught the ball, they received a give away from the athletic department. The athletic teams on our campus want us to have a presence at each game and event to show off what we do and get others excited about the possibilities.

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The Wolfpack is supported by all of our administrators and teachers in our program. On Fridays, Spirit Day, you will see students and staff members wearing our team shirt. One of our admin assistants very enthusiastically volunteered to be part of our Chairman's video by lending his voice for the voiceover. He wears our t-shirts at every sporting event to promote our team. He is the voice of Desert Mountain HS. Now he is the big voice of DM Robotics-The Wolfpack! He is also planning on volunteering at our Robotics competitions in Arizona.

The Wolfpack presented FIRST and the FRC program to incoming freshmen and parents at our Future Student Night. Over 175 students were interested in learning more about our program.

We volunteered at Microchip Masters in the Fall. This is where business experts experienced premier technical training at an event for embedded control engineers around the globe. Our team was able to interact with these experts and learn skills from them. Team members enjoyed sharing how FIRST Robotics inspires and benefits their lives.

The Wolfpack inspires the community by making a presence at major events. We set up a booth at Barrett Jackson-World's Greatest Collector Car show- and had a chance to introduce FIRST to that audience. We were well received by people from all around the country. We inspired many to start FIRST programs in the community. We also provided volunteer information for those interested and met many FIRST alum who shared their experiences on how FIRST changed their lives.

The Wolfpack had a presence at the FACTA event inviting members of the SUSD board, and congressmen from Az to help raise awareness about FIRST. Our board members were impressed and are sold that First is the #1 program for students.

The Wolfpack was proudly invited to the Innovation Fair in Scottsdale Arizona where we were picked to drive Sophia (the first robot citizen of the world) on stage as the keynote speaker at the event. At the event, our team was exposed to hundreds of people. One inventor approached our team to be on a reality TV show to expose FIRST Robotics to the world. Our robot was the center of attraction along with Sophia as many investors couldn't believe a high school robotics team had managed to accomplish such a great feat.

DM Robotics was featured on Fox 10 News, Channel 3 and 5 News exposing our team and FIRST Robotics to the entire Arizona Community. We were also featured on 1510 AM and 99.3 FM. Clips from these interviews can be found on Youtube and on our Facebook page. Our team is comprised of students from different cultures around the world. With an active Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page along with our recently launched website, friends and families around the world are introduced to the program. Many have been inspired to start FIRST teams soon in their region and others have become enthusiasts about STEAM and help our team with kind donations. With a wide outreach around the world, we have managed to spread the principles of FIRST and the value of STEAM to many different communities.

DM Robotics worked hard on and off the season to inspire may into the fields of STEAM, by promoting FIRST programs along different avenues. The team graciously acknowledges the mentors and sponsors who helped us accomplish our goals. Our mission continues to inspire as many people into STEAM fields and make the message of FIRST even louder.