

Chairman's Award - Team 1305

[Print](#)[Close](#)

2020 - Team 1305

Team Number

1305

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Canadore College/Nipissing University/PEO North Bay Chapter/Near North District School Board/General Motors/Enbridge Gas/Stenning & Associates&Near North Student Robotics Initiative

Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last five years.

We get students out of their comfort zones and we grow leaders. Alumnus Britney was terrified to speak to anyone when she joined our team. She went on to be Captain, popular with the media, 6 time Safety Star and she earned a FIRST Scholarship at Canadore College. Our students can now earn co op credits for their work on our team. CoCaptain Jared shares "(1305) gave me the courage to create my own film making business." 100% of our graduates have gone on to post-secondary education.

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community within the last five years.

We spread the FIRST message by averaging over 1 day of community involvement per week year-round since 2011. We run events such as the North Bay Science Festival and week-long Lego camps. The City of North Bay proclaimed May 13 as 1305 Day, where the Mayor recognized "the role 1305 plays to ensure greater access to STEAM education". We are a go-to team for major events such as Canada Day, Armed Forces Day and The Coldest Night Walk. We maintain a strong rapport with government representatives.

Describe the team's methods for spreading the *FIRST* message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.

We ran our 4th FIRST Gateway Conference with 60 attendees. We ran our 1st Robot Build Bash where new students built a robot. We have an active social media and website. We partner with organizations to run fun Lego camps. Through our Lego Around the World initiative, students brought 230 lbs of Lego with STEM lessons to 3 continents since 2016. Our Projet Franco-FIRST promotes STEM to Francophones. We presented for the Canadian Institute of Mining, the Rotary Club and the PEO Engineers Day.

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

We take pride in sharing knowledge with other teams. We connect FIRST teams with outreach opportunities such as the International Plowing Match and the Powassan Maple Syrup Festival. This year we ran 3 FIRST Canada webinars. We are a FIRST Canada hub providing valuable resources for FIRST teams. We connect with rookies at every competition we attend to share tips and enhance their FIRST experience. Our Rookie Safety Initiative has helped 301 teams stay safe over the past 11 years.

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

Isabella and her dad joined our team this season with plans to start a team in Almaguin. A school from Québec will be our guest at our FRC event. Our social media and website promote FRC. We nurture new teams ensuring that they grow with help from a veteran team. Chris Mara, mentor of FRC5672, says, "(They) have created a warm spirit of welcoming...This atmosphere allowed our small team of 5 from Wiikwemkoong, with a robot built from the recycling dump, feel like we belonged in FIRST."

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

Jessica and Jared partnered with FIRST Canada to create Lego Mindstorms tutorials to assist FLL teams. Our Operation Yukon created the first FIRST team in any Canadian territory. We start, sponsor, and mentor all local FLL and Jr. teams and mentored 5 teams in the Yukon, 2 of whom attended Provincials. Operation Yukon has planted the seeds for a future Yukon FTC team. Our website's "Contact Us" receives frequent inquiries. We make FIRST accessible by running 3 progressions of FIRST events.

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

We start, sponsor and mentor all area FLL and Jr. teams. We assist teams with their registration. We run Ask an Expert days and information nights to teach about FIRST. We partnered with the City of North Bay for FLL teams to tour the city for their City Shaper projects. Our FLL graduation recognized students' hard work and invited them to progress to FRC. Youth mentors work with FLL and Jr. teams. We partner with Infinity Innovations to create business opportunities for FLL projects.

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 started and mentored FRC4152 in Huntsville. They went on to start 3 other FRC teams. We presented at their Camp Big Canoe Retreat. We mentor FRC6461 in Wingham, over 400 km away. We continue mentoring our extended FIRST family. We invite FIRST teams to join us in exciting outreach events such as interactive demonstrations at the International Plowing Match. We assisted FRC5672 to start FLL teams on Manitoulin Is. We share skills, materials and resources with teams at the events we attend.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

We are inspired by the corporate citizenship of our sponsors. Their generosity, collaboration and wisdom strengthen our team. Our home is Canadore College. We are sponsored by the Near North School Board and conseil scolaire Franco-Nord School Board, which is unique because we are a community team and we aren't aware of any other community teams in Ontario that are sponsored by 2 school boards. Enbridge Gas, General Motors and PEO North Bay Chapter are some more of our amazing sponsors.

Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors within the last five years.

We recognize our sponsors through our Cool Degrees of Sponsorship. Our top sponsors are featured on our robot. A testament to sponsor loyalty is that 12 have been with us for the past 5 years. We invite our sponsors to events such as our media launch, potluck send-off and the North Bay FRC Competition. We also host an annual sponsor appreciation night. We started a new social media initiative this year called #1305appreciates. We made posts everyday for 28 days to thank our amazing sponsors.

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

FIRST is a Gateway to amazing opportunities to learn programming, design, wiring, entrepreneurship and communication. It's a Gateway to careers in the STEM field. FIRST gives you the tools to give back to your community and is a welcoming environment. FIRST is like a big family with friends from around the globe. FIRST celebrates competing as hard as you can while remaining gracious and helpful. FIRST is so much more than robots. It is an innovative hands-on learning experience.

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

We are a Gateway to the FIRST City, which we open with our 3 keys: Innovation, Leadership and Impact. We live by our team motto of Never Ever Quit. In the spirit of #webelong, we are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, with continuous intake year-round. We aim to make FIRST more accessible to underserved people. To do this, we have initiatives such as Projet Franco-FIRST, which brings FIRST to the francophone community and has generated partnerships with 4 francophone organizations.

For FRC teams older than 5 years, briefly describe your team's broader impact from its inception.

Taking our status as the longest sustained FRC team in Northern Ontario seriously, we focus on inspiring and supporting teams in our region. New mentor, Anne Brule shares, "When I was a kid, we didn't have many STEM opportunities. 1305 has transformed the culture in North Bay to be more STEM focused. The quality multidisciplinary approach brought me to this team." Our coin-operated interactive Lego contraption raised \$5,234 for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit at our hospital.

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

Michelle DeLoyde

Essay

FIRST GATEWAY

We are FIRST Team 1305, Near North Student Robotics Initiative, Ice Cubed. We are a Gateway Team, just as our home city is the Gateway to the North. We are located in North Bay, Ontario, Canada on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation Anishnabe. Our team has been a sustained force for change for 20 years, 17 with FIRST. We are a Gateway to the FIRST City with 3 keys: Innovation, Leadership and Impact.

We measure our success using our 5 Key Performance Indicators: Expand Growth and Impact; Support the STEM Efforts of the FIRST Family; Increase Commitment to Safety and Diversity; Improve Robot Success; Product Completion.

INNOVATION

1305 uses innovative ways to spread the message of FIRST, such as our Lego Around the World Initiative, Operation Yukon, FIRST co-op credit, Coding for Teachers and Projet Franco-FIRST. We also use innovative ways to make FIRST fun. Extreme Core Values, invented by Jared and Mentor Mr. Kelso for our North Bay FLL tournament, are now a fun finale at FLL Provincial Champs. They are games that teach FIRST Core Values lessons. Just imagine a shoeless blindfolded mentor guided by students through a field of mouse traps. Yikes! We enjoy making FIRST fun, an ideal path to draw people through the FIRST Gateway.

We use innovative methods to share knowledge. We are proud to be a FIRST Gateway for other teams through our FIRST Canada Hub, one of 3 in Canada. As the longest sustained FRC team in Northern Ontario, we feel that we have a responsibility to inspire and support teams, particularly those in the north. We rely on technology to overcome the communication challenges presented by the vast region of Northern Ontario, which can also benefit teams worldwide.

Our FIRST Gateway is always open to inspiring citizens of the galaxy! We accept new members year-round without auditions or membership fee. We celebrate diversity and, to ensure that everyone belongs, we have a policy of continuous intake. As part of this strategy, this fall we ran our first-ever Robot Build Bash. It's an innovative 9-week program to recruit and introduce prospective team members to the fundamentals of FRC, including CAD, building, coding and public speaking. This new program introduced 15 new students to our team. "I had so much fun at the build bash, I'm joining 1305!" says Emily, a Build Bash student.

We partner with Infinity Innovations to create a continuum for FLL projects. Infinity Innovations has partnered with 2 teams from the 2018 season and are interested in 5 more projects from the 2019 season. The Spice Girls FLL team alumni, now on our team, created 2 prototypes of their filtration system and are working with Infinity Innovations to develop a compact version to be used for cottages and homes.

LEADERSHIP

1305 is a Gateway to leadership. We grow leaders today who will solve the problems of tomorrow. Our student leaders are supported by their own mentor advisor and each outreach event is led by a student and a mentor. For many outreach events, we partner with community leaders: Science North, Professional Engineers of Ontario North Bay Chapter, Ignite North Bay and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Being a Gateway means making connections. In 2018, the Canadian Forces Base North Bay hosted a tour of the NORAD facilities for our FLL teams' Into Orbit KickOff, thus connecting FLL students with leadership role models. Inspired by our FIRST students, the military then invited our FLL teams, with mentorship from 1305, to participate in the 2019 Armed Forces Day Bailey Bridge Construction Challenge. Our FLL kids built a bridge that was strong enough to support Lego robots of increasing weight. Our members were particularly excited to see the bomb-defusing robots at this event. We deepened the connections through a private meeting with the Canadian Snowbirds, an air demonstration squadron for the Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as with the crew of the CF18—both excellent leadership role models. This initiative resulted in the first military volunteers at our FLL and FRC events.

As a FIRST Gateway team, we initiate partnerships, create opportunities and invite other FIRST teams to join us at our events. Three years ago, we initiated a partnership between FIRST Canada and the International Plowing Match (IPM). We led the FIRST robotics interactive demonstration at the 2019 IPM, inviting 9 other FIRST teams to join us in the big education tent. IPM welcomed over 80,000 visitors, 7,000 of whom were students. We ran our 4th FIRST Gateway Conference featuring presentations such as Technical Lessons Learned, Networking FIRST Style, Shared Values-Connecting First Nations to FIRST Core Values, and a panel of mentors to talk about Drive Team selection.

Our alumni continue to be leaders in the FIRST community. Carleton University FIRST alumni (CU FIRST) was co-founded by 2 of our past captains, Alex Wilcox and Anthony Caliciuri. CU FIRST paved the way for the new Carleton University FRC Event in Ottawa this season.

We work hard to maintain access to FIRST progressions for youth in Northern Ontario. We ran our 5th FLL Qualifier, 5th Jr. Showcase and 6th FRC Event. We started and mentored 15 of the FLL teams who attended the qualifier and the 6 Jr. teams who attended the showcase. We ran FLL and Jr. information nights to show parents and teachers how to get involved. We also ran FLL Ask an Expert Days to guide FLL teams through their season.

IMPACT

Essay - page 2

We provide a Gateway to skills and resources for other teams. We share our robot carts, assist with safety and pit organization, and teach teams how to speak with judges. We are happy to share parts, tools, and expertise with any team. We reach out to rookie teams in particular at FRC competitions. We firmly believe that helping others is vital to the success of our team, other teams, and FIRST as a whole. Helping teams to be better makes the competition more fun for everyone.

We are proud to be a FIRST Gateway for impactful northern teams. We started and mentored FRC4152, who have now started 3 teams and their own FLL tournament. We mentored FRC5672 since their beginnings and helped them with their first-ever Chairman's Award submission. They impact our team, teaching us about their traditions. We were moved when they shared their smudging ceremony outside the Cobo Center. Knowing their story and growth, it was inspiring to see 5672 win the 2019 Chairman's Finalist Award at the FIRST Championship. They were the first Indigenous FRC team to attend the FIRST Championship. Through instrumental support and guidance from 1305, they have become confident and strong presenters. Although they have participated in our FIRST Gateway Conference from the beginning, this past year, they made a presentation titled Shared Values-Connecting First Nations and FIRST Core Values.

We are a Gateway to change in our community. One of our all-girl FLL teams inspired a mattress recycling program in our city, effectively extending the landfill's lifespan by many years. The program recycled over 10,300 mattresses, enough to fill more than 3 Olympic sized swimming pools. Now that's impact!

1305 holds a prominent position in our community and is often invited to participate in events. We have averaged over one day of community involvement per week year-round since 2011. Our coin-operated interactive Lego contraption has raised over \$5,300 for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit. We have volunteered to lead workshops at One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre (OKP) many times. We are excited to be entering a new partnership with OKP, FIRST Canada, and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital to run Lego camps at OKP. The program will be geared to children with special needs, predominantly those on the autism spectrum.

We are a Gateway to learning. We are a community team working out of Canadore College, with students from 3 different school boards, 2 of whom sponsor our team. Fionna is one of the rookies introduced to our team through the Robot Build Bash. She shares: "I love how you can try your hand at anything you want and the people around you will help you achieve it. The entire atmosphere and dynamic of the people around me is truly unique."

Our work has inspired the politicians of our Gateway City to demonstrate their support of FIRST in a number of ways. They have a strong presence at our North Bay FRC Event, they speak at opening ceremonies, retreats and conferences. Mayor McDonald includes us in new STEM initiatives in the city, such as the North Bay Science Festival. MPP Hon. Vic Fedeli is an advocate for FIRST Canada in the provincial legislature. Speaker of the House Anthony Rota, helped start the North Bay FRC Competition.

Our team is a Gateway to changing lives!

As a result of 1305 networking, Mentor Ryan Del Genio was hired through 1305 networking to create a robotics curriculum and teach educators about Lego Mindstorms. Co-Captain Jared found his passion while creating team videos, giving him the courage to start his own filmmaking business.

Past Captain Anthony Caliciuri, engineering grad, FRC Game Announcer and lead at the Carleton FRC Event: "For years, my social anxiety made it virtually impossible to speak in front of large groups, even speaking in front of my class was a terrifying thought...but 1305 gave me the tools and the confidence to effectively manage my illness."

Past Captain Emily Haws, journalism grad, Associate Producer for CBC's Power and Politics: "FIRST taught me how to see projects from conception to completion, and it gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams. I learned that often people will give you things if you ask for them nicely and that you can be kind AND competitive. You don't gain anything if you win by tearing others down."

FIRST GATEWAY

As we Rise Up with Infinite Recharge, we are a Gateway to the FIRST City, a place of belonging where innovation, leadership and impact are celebrated. Together we rise!