

Chairman's Award - Team 180

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

2020 - Team 180

Team Number

180

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

Florida Power & Light / UL / State of Florida / Pratt & Whitney / Lockheed Martin - Sikorsky / Siemens & South Fork High School & Clark Advanced Learning Ctr & Martin Co High School & Jensen Beach High School

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

We encourage internships, networking & resume building, promote hard & soft skills - ranging from building to leadership - and help prepare students for their careers. We encourage WalkLikeWoodie attitude by helping teams with programming & building. We have UL safety standards & everyone goes through the hands-on tests 22 students learned a self-sustaining 3D-CAD training program 93% of our alumni pursue STEM majors 3 FIRST Dean's List Finalists, 1 Championship Dean's List Winner

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

As a result of an average of 50+ outreach demos yearly, our community is actively embracing STEM. We work with the School Board to provide \$2,100 in each school for robotics Our County has all 4 FIRST programs, including Junior Discovery Pilot with our sponsor AAALC We created & maintain a STEM building at the County Fair to 75,000+ attendees We are viewed as an expert STEM resource, advisors, and volunteers Local businesses hire our students for work-studies and internships.

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

We've created many programs & spread FIRST/STEM awareness everywhere Created Camp-In-A-Box to be shared with teams as fundraiser Camp-In-A-Box was piloted in India, Philippines, Colombia, Brazil, & Honduras Created 3 robotics episodes on local TV Science show Run annual mini-golf tournament fundraiser to showcase FIRST & SPAM Participated with a float in the Christmas parade in front of 5,000 spectators Airshow FIRST/STEM booth and volunteering Featured by local and regional media

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

SPAM adopts a GP culture that empowers students to lead by example & WalkLikeWoodie Adopt-a-rookie program develops the veterans mentorship skills The student board and sub-team leaders allow for team leadership Earned 2 GP Awards in the past 5 years Provide at least 2 knowledgeable Ambassadors at each event Share our scouting methods & data even when it could put our team at a disadvantage 90% of our students and 50% of our mentors volunteer at FIRST events Open our field other teams to use

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

Through our continuous outreach, we inspire groups to participate in FRC Following a demo, we started and mentored FRC 6225 Florida State FLL Invitational workshop to encourage progression to FRC Showcased at FPL to recruit mentors to begin FRC teams Our alumni are mentors on multiple FRC teams Introduced FIRST to 2 school districts & 6 youth organizations to draw interest Focus on starting & sustaining FLL Jr., FLL an all-girls FTC, and a second FTC team to create a feeder system for FRC

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

SPAM started 80 FIRST teams in 2 school districts in the past 5 years. Worked with advocates to start FLL in all 17 of the district's Elem & Middle schools Worked with sponsors to start FLL in all 5 of the Boys & Girls Clubs Started 8 FLL through the homeschool group in the past five years Started 33 FLL Jr in schools, homeschool groups & learning centers Worked with Golden Rule Academy to start 1 FRC, 1 FLL & 12 FLL Jr. Started & mentored FTC all-girls team Started & mentored FTC all-boys team

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

SPAM recognizes team sustainability is vital to maintaining a progression of programs. In the past 6 years we ran and hosted 12 FLL qualifying tournaments and 6 FLL practice tournaments, averaging 150 students and hundreds of spectators FLL Teams, coached 11 in last 2 years FLL Jr teams, coached 17, mentored 9, & ran 5 Expos FTC Teams, mentored FTC15100 started & mentored all-girls FTC14449 MAPS. 50% of this year's SPAM team has FLL experience compared to 21% in 2016 School Board recognition

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)

Sharing our knowledge is key to our GP culture & WalkLikeWoodie Mentored FRC 7442 & FRC 6225 for 2 yrs Led 10 Regional Conferences in past 5 yrs Led CIAB conferences at 2 Regionals & 2 CMP, prompting 33 Safety Smart® video downloads from UL Trained/provided materials for FRC 6225 to start FLL Assisted FRC 6225 in applying for grant to fund 12 FLL Jr's Trained FRC teams to run FLL tourneys & LEGO camps Guided FRC 1523 in restructuring for sustainability Started, mentored FTC 14449 Mentored 15100

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

We look at our sponsors as community partners where they support us with resources, work/study & jobs. SPAM has 72 sponsors ranging from individuals to national companies with whom we develop close partnerships. Pratt & Whitney/UTC, Lockheed Martin, FPL, UL, State of FL & new sponsor SmithsInterconnect make up 54% of our donations 67 diverse groups of local businesses and families comprise the remaining 46%, creating sustainability Local state college provides some monetary and in-kind support

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

Our sponsors know they are investing in a sustainable team. SPAM introduced AAALC to FIRST 6 years ago. Today they have a robotics program based on FIRST Schoology; employ 2 of our mentors; provide work-study to 10+ students Participated in 31 sponsor events in last 4 years At UL's suggestion, present Safety Smart? curriculum at our summer camps and our CIAB Showcase team for FPL employees to encourage involvement in FIRST; FIRST FPL scholarship was created as a result Sponsorship Packets

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

FIRST is a progression of STEM programs for students ages 4 -18 that values cooperation and teamwork to solve STEM challenges in a game environment. Led by mentors, students develop self-confidence as well as leadership and practical skills that can be used for college and future careers. Guided by Gracious Professionalism, teams actively assist one another so that all teams have the ability to perform at their best. Students become passionate advocates of STEM and WalkLike Woodie

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

The example of sustainability started in 1997 and impacting all FIRST programs 100% of students in our school district have access to a FIRST program Awarded by FLL state judges for our impact on FLL in Florida Created & run a STEM building at the County Fair to 75,000 attendees FTC 14449 all-girls team & FTC15100 International outreach: India, Colombia, Philippines, Honduras, Brazil Students, parents, mentors & alumni volunteer at all levels of FIRST Alumni started & mentor other FIRST teams

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

Our lead mentor sends us off the bus for each tournament with the following instructions to Make a Friend: Build a network of mentors and individuals to benefit your future Thank a Volunteer: Recognize the people who take time to support you in your endeavors Do Your Best: Winning is not a requirement, do your best because it promotes continuous improvement as individuals and as a team Be Safe: Practice the art of recognizing and avoiding unsafe acts Have Fun: Enjoy the hard work and long days

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

Hannah Jones

Essay

When people are interested in our team, they typically ask questions like... how do you keep your team alive for over two decades? How does your team keep students, mentors, and parents excited and interested in the club? How does your team provide students with knowledge and experience in both hard and soft skills that will help them in any career they choose? How does your team develop a program that groups can replicate to help further the purposeful message of FIRST? It's simple - we cultivate a growth mindset throughout our team set around building both robots and relationships with the community. Our multi-step process to achieve this goal begins with the rookies.

SPAM starts every season by hosting team-designed workshops to entice and encourage rookies about FIRST's many exciting opportunities. New members expand their knowledge about GP, FIRST, SPAM, and our team history. Recruits gain skills that improve their team experience while offering a chance to see what team subdivision they'll join. As the season progresses, our veteran members participate in our unique "Adopt-A-Rookie" program to acclimate rookie members and develop veterans' mentoring skills. This initiative assists our students, parents, and mentors to hold themselves and each other to a certain standard of excellence for others to emulate. We encourage one another to maintain peak performance as teammates at outreach events, tournaments, and while we work in our home pit.

When the team arrives at a tournament, we disembark the SPAM bus and review critical information for the day. Where's our rendezvous point? What's the scouting schedule? When is our first match? We always get these parting words from Mr. Brooks, our team's president - be gracious professionals. Stay safe. Thank a volunteer. Make a friend. Have fun! During the competition, we make it a priority to thank volunteers and sponsors for their love and dedication to FIRST, especially at the event.

SPAM has always spread STEM and FIRST awareness within our community and will continue to do so for the life of our team. Outreach, demonstrations, and community service make SPAM visible in our community. At our county fair, as many as 76,000 people pass through our interactive displays. Over the last 10 years, our presence has expanded, and since 2016, we've led the fair's STEM-based activities in their STEM-dedicated building. We've worked with groups from all four FIRST programs while encouraging other teams to replicate the examples we've set. In 2016, we helped start a program with the Education Foundation of Martin County to create solid funding lasting four years for every middle and elementary school team. During this period, every student in our county was granted the opportunity to participate in a FIRST program. Thanks to our continuous outreach, we have started 80 FIRST teams in 2 school districts in the past 5 years and continue to spread the message of FIRST worldwide.

Within the teams that SPAM started, students have participated in FLL through all seventeen elementary and middle schools in our districts, all five Boys and Girls Clubs, eight homeschool groups, and four 4-H teams. SPAM has started and mentored two FTC teams, an all-girls team, and an all-boys team. In 2016, we assisted in securing \$10,000 from one of our sponsors, a \$20,000 grant to expand the FLL program at the Boys & Girls Clubs, and funding to start programs at the YMCA. This year, we helped acquire \$2,100 funding for each school in our district to use towards improving their robotics programs.

Our students serve as mentors for numerous FIRST teams in our community, replicating our helpful actions and observances from SPAM mentors. These dedicated advisors from many professional backgrounds understand that our team's mission is more than just building a world-class robot. Our journey is to expand community STEM interest while promoting and influencing leadership and gracious professionalism to our students.

Our mentors guide us to harbor a safety program that completely embodies UL's safety standards. UL has been a major component in maintaining the longevity of our team by providing more than just sponsorship dollars. They have contributed irreplaceable material to instruct our students on proper safety techniques. Since our partnership with UL began, we have expanded our training to encompass multiple safety aspects around the pit, at competitions, and in day-to-day life. We have showcased UL's programs at SPAM-hosted conferences at two FRC regionals and two FRC Championships, prompting dozens of Safety Smart® video downloads.

Another team priority is ensuring healthy partnerships with our sponsors and using our GP culture to share FIRST and STEM with our gracious donors. We are very excited about the effects of our GP culture on one of our major sponsors, FPL, who created the NextEra Energy Foundation for anybody with at least 2 years of experience on any FTC or FRC team. "It is with the SPAMmers in mind that FPL took a giant leap [in 2016] and created our first-ever scholarship to students who are a part of a FIRST team," -Maureen Wilt, Education Program Manager, FPL.

As a result of our GP culture, SPAM continues to maintain a model that other FIRST teams emulate. Our successfully sustainable team has a strong influence, spreading STEM awareness and instilling inspiration of science and technology within today's youth - not only in our community, but across the world.