

Chairman's Award - Team 2526

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2016 - Team 2526

Team Number

2526

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

TURCK Inc. / Boston Scientific / Osseo Area Schools / Natur-Bag / Three Squares Restaraunt / Chipotle / Tennant / Solos Pizza Cafe / ICA Corporation / Legato Industries Inc / Osseo Lions Club / Snap Fitness-Golden Valley / Avallo Marketing / Allegra Printing Brooklyn Park / Hitesman & Wold PA / Pinnacle Engineering / Accorde Orthodontists / World Taekwando Academy-Osseo / Youngstedts Maple Grove Tire and Auto / Kumon Math / Country Chevrolet / Gladwin Machinery & Supply Co. / Rush Creek Golf Club / Aloft Technologies Inc / Maple Grove Lions Club / Michael Matheson of Financial Dimensions Group & Maple Grove Senior High

Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2015/2016 year and the preceding two to five years

FIRST allows our team members to create lifelong friendships and acquire important skills. Team 2526's mentors teach students the design process, business and communication skills, how to program, and how to use tools. This newfound knowledge helps our members prepare for college and their future careers. The FIRST Robotics Competition gives people a place to belong, flourish, and develop their natural talents.

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2015/2016 year and the preceding two to five years

Crimson Robotics spreads the FIRST message of gracious professionalism in our community by advertising the benefits of STEM education in our community while we fundraise for our team. We inspire young kids by running a LEGO Mindstorms camp over the summer. We organize presentations to show elementary school students what FIRST is, and help elementary school students explore the plethora of possibilities that STEM education provides.

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

Our team spreads the FIRST message by giving presentations to schools and businesses, hosting and assisting in volunteer events, and helping other schools set up robotics programs. We participate in our school's pep rallies and activity fairs to spark interest in STEM at our school. We also assisted with a local elementary school event promoting engineering for students and volunteered at a local marathon. Our team runs a LEGO robotics summer camp to inspire interest younger kids in robotics.

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

At Crimson Robotics, we take pride in setting high standards governing how our members should behave both in and out of robotics. As a result, our team shares the belief that each of us is a representative of Team 2526 and that our actions should be considered good examples for younger members to follow. Whether it be volunteering, teaching at schools, or mentoring FLL, we do what we do because it is the right thing to do and we wear our hearts on our sleeves.

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

Sadly, our team has not yet been able to help start another FRC team, but we are hoping we will have an opportunity to do so in the future. Team 2526 would be honored to help other students realize their full potential by forming other FRC teams.

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

Team 2526 has started four FLL teams: 19796 (NorthView Knights), 19798 (Brooklyn Bulldogs), 19799 (Osseo Orioles), and 19800 (Maple Grove Mustangs). Team 19800 Maple Grove Mustangs had 47 prospective team members, but we couldn't register another team. Instead of turning people away, we created our own mini-regional so they could still be involved, even though not on a registered team. We plan to start FLL teams at each of the seventeen elementary school in our district in the future.

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

We assisted in the reformation of FRC Team 3291, Pi-Rats, by going to an activity fair at Park Center with our robot and

several members of our team to explain FIRST and FRC. Ever since then, we have been mentoring and advising them on a regular basis. We prepared a presentation to a boy scout troop with Team 1816, The Green Machine. We also helped the FLL teams we started by providing transportation to the competition, and organizing a mini-regional competition between the schools.

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 mentored FLL Teams 19796, 19798, 19799, and 19800 by having a small group of our students at each team's meeting to steer the FLL students in the right direction and taught them the ideals of gracious professionalism and cooperation.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

Our sponsors include Turck, Boston Scientific, Maple Grove and Osseo Lions Clubs, Natur Tec International, Snap Fitness-Golden Valley and Avallo Marketing.

Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2015/2016 year and the preceding two to five years

Crimson Robotics closely collaborates with our sponsors by giving presentations to their employees to show them how their financial support helps promote STEM education. Our relationship with our community sponsors was tested this year when our primary sponsor significantly decreased its contribution. Our team reached out to our community, which overwhelmed us with their response. Countless small donations allowed us to overcome the deficit and surpass our goal.

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

FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, and they are just that: an inspiration. They organize competitions, and bring students together from all over the world in a celebration of science. Although FIRST competitions are fun, the program is "more than robots." Not only do they promote science, they also promote community involvement. Through gracious professionalism, FIRST inspires students to become not only scientists, but to become better people.

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

Due to recent changes within our school district, our pool of potential team members went from three grades to four grades. Our new influx of students means we have even more members than ever before. In order to make sure all our new, and old members are involved, we've started new methods in organizing how we utilize our pre-build season time by starting new programs such as FLL, VEX, and involving all members within our business departments whenever possible.

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

Anna Fix

Essay

It would be best described as intense. A culmination of our efforts so great that nothing can compare to the moment when hundreds of hours of effort, collaboration, and exhaustion pay off. But it is not just seen within the team. During the match, it is in the faces and emotions across the field, the resounding cheers of the entire arena, the ultimate connection throughout the alliance and the tumbling commentary of the announcer streaming throughout the stadium. With these feelings of community and FIRST ideas culminating in that moment, our team decided to do our best to work even harder to create this same intense atmosphere of gracious professionalism and cooperation in all that we strive to do as a team, not only during competitions and meetings, but wherever we go. Crimson Robotics is founded upon STEM, collaboration, and interdependence; our foundation is reinforced by our philanthropy to our community and district through volunteerism and new robotics programs.

Our team has participated in numerous FRC events in the past few years. In the 2015 season, we participated in the Lake Superior Regional in Duluth, the Wisconsin regional in Milwaukee, the Minnesota State Competition, and the World Championships. This year, we plan to go to the Lake Superior regional as usual and the Iowa Regional. We would love to participate in the Minnesota State Competition and the World Championship if given the chance, and the Minnesota Regional Invitational in the fall of 2016. At our competitions in 2015, we won the Team Spirit Award, and were the champions at the Lake Superior Regional along with Teams 93 and 4818. At the Wisconsin Regional, we won the Innovation in Control award, and at the Minnesota State Championships we placed second. At the World Championships, our alliance won the Tesla subdivision and placed seventh in the world.

Near the end of the summer, our team began meeting with our district to establish FIRST LEGO League teams in every middle school in our district. We registered four teams, one team per middle school. After an informational meeting at Maple Grove Middle School, 49 students arrived at the first meeting wanting to join a single team. We were unprepared for this number of students, and had no idea that many students interested in joining. However, we were unwilling to

turn down a single student interested in robotics, so limiting the number of students on the team was unacceptable. We improvised and purchased the additional MINDSTORM kits needed, found extra LEGO pieces from an old LEGO program at our school, and decided to host our own unofficial mini-competition among our FLL teams a few days prior to the official FLL competition. The winning team of our competition advanced to the official one. Filtering one team to participate in the FIRST competition wasn't ideal, but we wanted to provide every student with the ability to construct, design, and introduce their ideas. We expect many of the students to return next year, and we plan on expanding into the elementary schools of our district in later years.

With 60 students on our team, including 28 new members, we wanted to encourage participation from every student and allow the new members a chance to contribute to the team. In order to prevent veteran members from doing all the work, we established seven VEX teams of 7-9 students to give our newer members more experience with robotics prior to the FRC season. These teams gave everyone a chance to participate in robotics and get the experience with tools and robot parts to more fully understand the mechanics behind FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION robots.

FIRST LEGO League, in addition to the seven VEX teams started in our high school, is an investment in our community. Our long term goal is to give every student in every grade at any school in our district the opportunity to participate in robotics.

As a team, we strive to encourage excellence in all our members. To involve our students sooner and more fully into the design and build process, we put them in small groups to work on creating solutions, executing decisions, and rethinking design issues in a team-oriented setting while also teaching tool, design and programming skills. We encourage FIRST ideas such as gracious professionalism and cooperitition to even further prepare them for the atmosphere they will experience within FIRST. We found this program helped our students to enter the build season with more stable ground beneath their feet. In the future, we hope to get our team involved in the FIRST Tech Challenge instead of our current program to better establish the FIRST ideas and environment they would experience in the upcoming FRC season.

During the FRC season, we continually work to keep all students fully engaged and involved. This is a difficult task with our team's size, but we have found strategies that have kept our students engaged, learning, and having fun. Within our six-week build time we work with students to get them shadowing a veteran member and mentor, find them small, important projects, allow them to move from department to department and push them to get involved in both the build and business sides of the team. This year we have also worked with mentors to allow a more one-on-one experience for learning skills such as CAD and programming. We also encourage our team members to put their effort into our team's fundraisers and community outreach programs to give them a wider perspective of what our team does and is about. But a team is only as good as their members, so we also try to find ways to create lasting connections between members and mentors by having team-bonding events, such as paintball games, movies and team retreats, as well as a communal space for when we eat so people can interact with each other in a relaxed and accepting environment. We've come from small beginnings, and are moving towards indefinite, everlasting ends. Team 2526 wants to leave a mark on the community that can be seen in the engineering fields years after our practices. Crimson Robotics has laid new ground in making FIRST more than building a robot, but rather blossoming it into the community through STEM education, volunteerism, and promoting interdependence.

2016 - Team 2526

Picture 1



2016 - Team 2526

Picture 2



2016 - Team 2526

Picture 3



2016 - Team 2526

Picture 4

