

## Chairman's Presentation

### **Introduction:**

In order to inspire each member of Red Alert team 1741, our team strives to assist students in discovering who they are and what their strengths and weaknesses are within science and technology. We see it as our responsibility to not only have a successful team this year, but to sustain high levels of excellence for many years to come.

### **Sustaining Red Alert:**

Each year, we make sure that our students are aware of every significant aspect of our team. Every individual is required to take a quiz over the game rules, safety, and non-engineering. In order to travel, all students must pass each quiz, while also maintaining a 2.5 GPA. Students must meet these requirements to hold them to their full potential.

Our team encourages categorized leadership roles, which drives our kids to take the initiative to step up when help is needed. Our high standards and expectations are one of the strengths of our team. Our students are trained to follow someone else of a higher rank, preparing them for their future roles on the team, as well as when a captain is absent.

Since 2009, we have been the only extra-curricular activity to participate in our school's homecoming parade. We also host an Indy South tournament every year. The referees for the tournament are from our team, and provide an expert example for the younger kids to follow.

### **Sustaining FIRST:**

We believe that building experiences is an important part of FIRST. The guidelines that FIRST has provided for us have created an infrastructure for our team, which motivates our students to strive to be their best. This, in turn, produces a team that strives to its best.

In working to follow the values of FIRST, our students have not only gained more confidence in their ability to learn, but prospered in all aspects of their lives as well. We have formed an atmosphere where students are able to practice life skills, accompanying the engineering skills that are already inherited from the student's mentors and predecessors.

To us, it is important to carry on the FIRST ideals. We make evident gracious professionalism, coopertition, spreading knowledge of science and technology, and giving students the opportunity to do extraordinary things. We have been able to prosper as a team because we follow the principles of FIRST. For example we are not driven by the desire to win, instead we have the ambition to discover new things about science and technology.

We feel that the community surrounding us is just as important as the FIRST community. Some ways we show our support is by helping out our environment. Selling energy efficient light bulbs and recycling makes our team very green.

Through our various library demonstrations we generate curiosity. By doing this we help to encourage young children to join FIRST and open their minds to the world of science.

FIRST is a program that has inspired many people. In our team all the alumni have graduated and gone off to a college. Our firm belief in the FIRST values sparked an interest in many different engineers some who are now members of our team. Most of them have never had kids on the team.

### **Sustaining Inspiration:**

Allowing children to experience science and technology at a young age instills them with excitement and motivation. This year we started a program in partnership with Girl Scouts of America, GEARS, which introduced thirty young girls to engineering and FIRST. Also having high school students mentor keeps the younger children excited for what is coming up for them.

Giving middle school students an opportunity to interact with the high school robotics team shows the younger students what to expect. Starting an FTC team with the middle school students and some of the freshman has allowed us to keep them excited.

To us, all the communities surrounding us are equally important. Showing them the importance of science, engineering, and technology keeps everyone aware of the world around them.

At every competition attend, our team ensures that we have activities for all ages. We set up silly science fairs to appeal to the younger children at the events. This comprises a wide range of activities; including building things with K'nex and Legos, non-Newtonian fluids paper airplane aerodynamics, and coloring pages. The programs and activities mix fun into science and technology in order to inspire our younger admirers to pursue science and technology in the future.

The ice cream social held at our school's freshman orientation provides another means for sustaining inspiration. Red Alert sets up an information stand, as well as a robot demonstration. This appeals to the new students and sparks an interest in them. Without the social, a lot of our freshman would not have joined the team.

We strongly believe in helping others in need, even if it happens to be our competitors. Each year at competition, we provide blank discs for the teams that do not know how to submit their Chairman's video. We also offer spare tools and materials –some of which we do not need. Our team also participates in Indianapolis's Vision Walk, in support of past team members with vision complications. We provide a large print game manual as well. For the less fortunate in our community, as well as around the world, our team got together to pack shoes for Operation Christmas Child and mail sponsor letters for Kids Against Hunger. To further sustain our global contributions, we started a recycling program in our school called, "Green Alert".

## **Conclusion:**

Red Alert Robotics strives to spark inspiration within each member of our team in order to help them learn more about who they are and discover their passion for science and technology. We make it our duty to sustain FIRST so others can benefit from it as we have.