

Rachel-Inspiration, Support, and conclusion  
Darius- Fun and Reaching out  
Kyle- Intro and Teamwork

## **Introduction**

Since Dean's homework this year was to put FIRST into everything you do, we re-invented what we do to revolve around our own definition of FIRST.

## **F is for Fun**

### **Science Fairs**

At local events, we created a learning environment geared towards children who were too young to be engaged in the competitions. We had learning centers that taught science-based lessons that inspired an interest in a FIRST future.

### **Our Robot in Our Community**

Our robot is a staple in our community. Our team often appears at school registrations, parades and in booths at community events. We even hold an annual open house (which our superintendent highly recommends that all staff attend) for our community to come see our outreach, and of course, our robot.

### **Library**

Up until last year, we were the only team in our county! We recently completed our 12<sup>th</sup> library demonstration, spreading FIRST. In conjunction with our library demonstrations we have started a literacy program called "Read Alert" where we boost literacy skills with technology-related literature.

## **I is for Inspiration**

### **Vision Walk + Large Print Manual**

Since we have had members and class mates who are visually impaired, we wanted to support them and the visually impaired community. Our team partnered with the football team participated in a Vision Walk and gave a robot demonstration for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.

Additionally, our team made a large print game manual for the visually impaired FIRST community. We plan to continue this to inspire other FIRST teams to extend a helping hand to people with disabilities.

### **VA Hospital and Air Guard**

We traveled to a local veteran's hospital and an Air Guard base to learn about military technology and the ways that prosthetics benefit our veterans. This allowed team members to look at a bigger picture of robotics and technology and show them an alternative side to STEM careers.

### **Robots In Classroom**

Our team is strongly involved in the school curriculum. Our robot started in a pneumatics lesson, we are involved in all of the Project Lead the Way classes, and we are working with the science department on a lesson on prosthetics. We also partnered with our schools English department to increase critical literacy skills with in our team. All team member read the New Cool and then discussed it in small groups.

## **R is for Reaching Out**

### **Recycling**

When it comes to recycling, forget Red Alert, we're Green Alert! Our team recycles everything we can - cardboard, paper, plastic, cans, and scrap aluminum especially.

### **Community Tech Night**

To increase digital literacy and create better cyber citizens, we hosted a Community Tech Night. We offered lessons about technology related to the community and the schools, including Internet safety. The chief of police even came to discuss the ramifications of cyber bullying.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

We know that FIRST is about helping our world. We partnered with a local church to help pack shoe boxes for under privileged children all over the world through operation Christmas child. Our team packed over 1300 boxes.

### **Project Linus**

We partner with our schools sew fun club to help make blanket for Project Linus. Project Linus gives blankets to children that are affected by disasters.

## **S is for Support**

### **FLL Teams/ISRQT**

To support the FIRST community our team has started up many FLL teams. We host the only FLL Competition in Central Indiana, the only one with an FRC Team present, and the only one to have the FLL teams feed directly into the FRC team. We are currently working towards having both an FLL and a Jr. FLL Team at every district elementary school.

### **Jr. FLL**

This year we started a Jr. FLL team at one of our elementary schools. The young students were excited to work with high schoolers and learn about the science of ice cream!

### **FTC**

FIRST Team 1741 helped to start and participate in an FTC team of homeschooled students.

### **VEX**

Within the past year our team has participated and mentored several VEX teams. We also helped by creating part of this year's VEX field.

### **3180**

We helped start FRC Team 3180. We loaned them a robot at an off-season event. We still help them today! We are excited to compete with them here at the Queen City Regional!

### **Dean's Homework**

This year, our team has strived to complete Dean's Homework. We have FIRST logos on all of our paperwork, t-shirts, and anything else associated with our team.

### **Cummins**

Through a recent partnership with Cummins, FIRST team 1741 has been able to support the FIRST community. We recently had a presentation with several technical and community outreach members and are currently working with them to financial support all Indiana FIRST teams, help our friends in Brazil FRC team 1772, and start 2 new teams in India.

# **T is for Teamwork**

## **Exchanges**

We work closely with many other teams. With local teams we scout, trade parts for service, we donate unused materials to other teams in need, and we give trophies to teams we admire.

## **School**

We have partnered with our school basketball team to analyze different shooting techniques for this year's game Rebound Rumble! We also partner with our schools key club to do different activities around the community.

## **70% Return to FIRST**

100% of our members graduate high school and go on to college. 70% of those graduates go on to participate in FIRST. Whether it is mentoring or being a FIRST volunteer, this 70% rate proves what an impact FIRST has had on students' lives.

## **STEM experience and Gaining Skills**

Our students collaborate with knowledgeable mentors to gain transferrable, STEM-field-related skills. Our team community is a safe place where students can be themselves leading to self-discovery and self-esteem. As students gain confidence in building relationships, they work on leadership skills. We have scaffolded leadership positions that gradually give students more team responsibility as they build stronger skills.

## **Conclusion**

The students on FIRST team 1741 believe that FIRST is a slam dunk. Through all of our time with FIRST we have all experienced different things. One student sums it up best by saying "FIRST has given me an experience I could get no were else. It has helped me build relationships, develop life skills, and so much more all while having the hardest fun possible"