

Jason Czechowicz

Explain how the student embodies the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition through the FIRST Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. Please provide examples.

Jason desires to make an impact in his community, driving FIRST's message in everything he does.

Jason includes everyone through his role as a leader of our Student Advocacy Committee. The SAC is an appointed group of students and mentors that work together to combat systemic team issues. Due to Jason's leadership and dedication, he was nominated to represent his fellow freshmen. In this role, Jason worked to support women on our team and advocate for his rookie constituents. As a founder of the SAC, Jason continues to be nominated year after year, as he hopes to increase communication between mentors and students and prevent future conflict.

Jason is also a key member of his high school's Sources of Strength club. This club is an elite group of teacher-nominated students from various extracurriculars who work together to better the Lockport community. As the robotics representative, Jason shares our experiences and learns from others, bettering the extracurricular he loves dearly.

How has the student increased the awareness of FIRST? Describe the student's interests and/or plans to continue to engage with FIRST beyond high school. Please provide examples.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Jason planned on coordinating multiple summer events. He was organizing a robot demonstration at a local Tech Wars competition, where over 1,000 middle and high school students would learn about our team and FIRST. He also planned on demonstrating our robot at the local Erie County Fair, where over a million people would have learned about FIRST and what our program offers students. Jason is very eager and enthusiastic to resume demonstrations and community outreach once we are able to safely do so.

After graduating high school, Jason plans on obtaining a 4-year degree in engineering. He aims to volunteer at local regionals and off-season events to give back to his local FIRST community. Furthermore, Jason is looking to become one of our key build mentors, who work every night to help students understand the principles of engineering. Since our 2 dedicated machinists are nearing their retirement, Jason aspires to become like those mentors who inspired him.

Describe the student's technical expertise, entrepreneurship and creativity. How does the student's individual contributions to the team benefit the team as a whole in areas of fundraising, outreach, robot build, programming, etc.? Please provide examples.

As a freshman, Jason challenged himself through working in multiple subteams. Through his dedication, he has become a leader of build, coordinating robot assembly and communicating with our CAD and programming teams to ensure everyone is working towards one common robot. For example, Jason worked closely with our CAD team to resolve an issue with our shooter, suggesting we add a PVC backplate to give the balls a backspin, improving our accuracy.

Jason also actively contributes to other subteams, having been an active student in our yearly programming classes. He also was a leader of our team's pit crew, a rare opportunity for freshmen.

Furthermore, Jason has been actively involved in our outreach and fundraising over the past 2 years. He was the leader in our annual Snap Raise fundraiser, raising over 300 dollars for our team. He is also a strong participant at our bake sales, donating baking goods to sell and working multiple shifts so other team members don't miss crucial classes.

Explain the student's leadership to their fellow team members. How do they motivate others? What is their leadership style? Please provide examples.

Even as a sophomore, Jason is one of our key student leaders. He passionately spearheads our build team as well as our Student Advocacy Committee. Even in this new remote format, Jason has motivated several students to coordinate our Innovation Challenge submission. Thanks to his leadership, this easily became the most passionate and engaged subgroup we've seen in years. Jason even hosts our Robotics 101 class, which teaches basic robotics skills, to acclimate and motivate incoming students for future seasons. He also leads a group for our Game Design challenge, creating a game based on "FIRST" Responders. Through these activities, Jason works to excite everyone about robotics, which has been especially challenging given our solely virtual climate.

Jason also exhibits leadership outside of robotics. He aids his sister, who washes dishes at a local restaurant. Jason helped improve the efficiency in routing plates, making work more organized and helping his sister when she needs it most.