

Philippe

Boy Scouts make the best FIRST students. They share FIRST ideals such as integrity, professionalism and community service. They have a strong moral foundation and a willingness to help others. These are all ideals embodied by Philippe Dora.

Philippe's friendliness and personal skills make him approachable, and he has recruited many students to the team. He is our go-to student for interfacing with sponsors and visiting VIPs and he represented our team during a special presentation at FLR 2013 for the FIRST Mega Drive. Many people have spoken highly of his helpfulness and ability to articulate fine points involving all aspects of FIRST, especially FRC1511. As a result, he was selected as a 2015 Chairman's presenter.

His charismatic nature enhances his entrepreneurial skills to help raise funds for organizations he is involved in. This is evident as he is continually one of the top fundraisers in our patron drive and has raised enough money in popcorn sales to replace his Boy Scouts Troop's camping gear, over \$10,000 in 3 years! He also volunteers at the PTSA's largest fundraiser each year. Philippe's ability to fundraise helps facilitate his true passion, making his community better.

Philippe is always giving back to his community. One of his biggest efforts is helping with the FIRST Mega Drive helping to collect thousands of food items, children's books and recyclable electronics. We won a \$10,000 national prize from USA Weekend Magazine for these efforts that we have used to help start FRC and FTC teams. He also participates in our team's recycling drives and grooms bike trails in several towns. The last two years, he has organized our team to participate in the Light the Night Walk, raising almost \$3,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a tradition we started after one of our students was diagnosed with leukemia. Philippe recently earned his Eagle Scout rank, an achievement that is not easy to obtain as only 6% of scouts achieve this rank. He built a bulletin board for Victor's Dryer Road Park.

His dedication is also evident in his role as Team Treasurer. Technically focused in math, Philippe has revamped our accounting system in just 2 years. He designed a filing system for bills and receipts that documents all transactions accurately, and advises the Lead Mentor on the status. This system helps us inventory all purchased items, keeping us on budget.

As a student-elected leader, Philippe has developed strong leadership skills. He is responsible for helping to make administrative decisions about the team, planning and running team meetings, team building activities and trainings. He organized an engineering activity where students had to design and build water bottle rockets. Philippe organized a scavenger hunt as a fun way for students to learn how to prepare for robot demonstrations.

Philippe has further refined his leadership skills in Boy Scouts. He has been Den Chief, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. He says that these leadership roles

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taught him the importance of setting priorities and staying organized. He also had the opportunity to attend the Scouts National Youth Leadership Training. He said, “This was an eye-opening experience that taught me the value of good leadership and how to apply it to normal day-to-day life.”

His success is not just limited to FIRST and Boy Scouts, Philippe is a high honor roll student, taking two AP and two honors courses this year. He is musically talented, playing alto and baritone sax in the school’s Wind Ensemble, competing in the NYS School Music Association and consistently receiving high marks on challenging pieces. Fluent in French, he helped start the French Club.

The entrepreneurship and treasury skills Philippe developed in FIRST will help his future career aspiration as a chartered accountant. His dedication and personality will undoubtedly make him a future asset to FIRST as he plans to mentor, recruit, and promote post-graduation.



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