

Alex Wolf lives FIRST. He has been part of FRC 1511 since the team's inception in 2004, when Alex was only in 4th grade. His older brother had joined the team and his parents became mentors. Naturally, Alex tagged along with the family, but could not help getting involved himself; the bug had bit him. He would work with his dad, an engineer from Kodak, and help him work on mechanical aspects of the team and Inventor. He quickly learned CAD and is currently our resident expert. Even as a 4th grader, he was very serious about his work on the team and FIRST and he has carried that attitude and strong work ethic with him through the last 8 years.

Alex's main contribution to the team is leading the mechanical design effort on Inventor for the past 3 years. He developed the curriculum for training students and adults in CAD software; he also trains team members in CAD one on one. Every year, our team generates a complete Inventor model of our robot prior to manufacturing parts. Alex is essential to leading and accomplishing this task. He is also one of the primary robot designers and is responsible for the overall model. This necessitated that the designs that Alex produce be up to business standards in order to be built correctly. This was quite a significant task for a high school student to accomplish, and it provided him real world experience with part design and fabrication. Many of the parts that Alex designed were manufactured by our main sponsor, Harris, and other sponsors, including Chamtek, a new sponsor he gained us after speaking to them about FIRST. Alex now has an impressive grasp of mechanical design. He understands the minute details of producing and fabricating parts, what is practical, and how designs work; he is able to capture all of this in Inventor.

Alex's technical expertise is not limited to just mechanical. He has also taken the opportunity to learn about programming and strategy. He logs over 200 hours of work every Build Season while still maintaining high honor roll, taking two Advanced Placement courses and one honors course this year. He sets the example of hard work and dedication to his fellow students. He was also elected by his team to be one of the Student Leaders his freshman year and was responsible for team event organization. For the past 3 years, he has organized and led the Bottle and Can Drive, fundraising for our team.

Another major position Alex holds on the team is being on the Pit Crew during competitions. As part of Pit Crew, he is responsible for quickly repairing the robot in between matches, administering safety practices and keeping our Pit clean, and answering any visitors' questions about the robot, our team, and FIRST. He also fields Judges' questions. We know that he represents the best of our team in a respectable and gracious manner.

Alex participates in almost all of our team community activities such as car washes, blood drives and fundraising walks for various causes like the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He also performs robot demonstrations at the County Library, 4th of July Parade, Monroe County Fair and local elementary schools to help spread FIRST. In school, he spreads FIRST and recruits new members at Freshman Orientation and Pep Rally. He works hard, wearing his team gear, which is well-known throughout the school and community.

Alex thrives in the competitive yet cooperative environment of FIRST, which will serve him well when he pursues a career in biomedical or mechanical engineering. He represents cooperation,

teamwork, and has respect for FIRST's mission. He conducts himself responsibly to act as an ambassador for FIRST. The impact FIRST and 1511 have had on Alex makes it clear that he will be a dedicated, lifelong member of FIRST.