

Julia

Julia's peers call her their team mom. She earned this endearing term by keeping everyone on task, and looking out for everyone while listening to and encouraging her peers to find their niche on the team. She "gets in the trenches" with the rest of her teammates, willing to do whatever is needed. This gains her respect from her peers and mentors, and allows her to motivate her teammates. Respect and motivation are the keys to a successful leader.

Julia's freshman year was ambitious, doing double duty on 1511 and FTC6996 as Team Captain, leading her team to win the Inspire Award and qualify for the Super Regionals. She now mentors 6996 in CAD, and provides feedback on their presentations and engineering notebook. For the last 2 years, she has organized FIRST Night at Bill Gray's, a robot demonstration with both FTC and FRC robots that doubles as a fundraiser. Julia is CEO of the event.

On 1511, she strengthens our relationship with our FLL and FTC teams and started a new leadership role last year, FLL/FTC Coordinator. She organized and ran team help sessions where 1511 students mentored teams from building to judging. She revamped our FLL summer camp curriculum by adding challenges to last year's game to make it new and fun. This was inspired by her 2 years as a Robotics Camp Assistant at a private school, teaching kids in grades 3-6 NXT and EV3 programming. She also volunteers at FLL and FTC events. Making our FLL and FTC students successful helps create excellent FRC students and future leaders like Julia.

An active part of all areas of 1511, Julia makes team administrative decisions as an elected student leader, co-leads the drivetrain subteam, leads the electrical subteam and has been on electrical pit crew for 2 years. She helps with award submissions and STEM legislation advocacy. She gave Assemblyman Mark Johns a tour at Ruckus, discussing the importance of funding STEM programs like FIRST; he wrote a letter of support for a \$250k grant to start FIRST teams in NY schools. Julia attended the FIRST National Advocacy Conference in DC, confidently speaking to multiple representatives about passing legislation for STEM program funding.

She organizes community service events and robot demos, such as year-round food drives and a Barnes & Noble demo with a LEGO building contest. She's attended over 50 events: raising money for JDRF and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, collecting items for CHD Bravery Bags, and welcoming veterans home from Honor Flight. She is part of the Make a Difference Day FIRST Mega Drive planning committee that brought in over 2000 food items and kids' books to be donated. She says doing a little bit of everything helps her understand the big picture of the team and to be a better leader.

Her leadership role this year is New Student Coordinator, helping us recruit and retain an unprecedented 85% of students! She has accomplished this by taking the initiative to have regular check-in sessions and multiple meetings that focus on various team topics to get new students quickly acclimated.

To be an entrepreneur, one must be willing to be an apprentice. Julia has been working with a jewelry designer for the past 7 years, learning the craft and how to run a business. Designing and making jewelry utilizes similar skills she applies when designing and building the robot. She

Commented [1]: bring zip tie ring/wear it to judge interview

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also takes sewing and quilting classes, which came in handy when she sewed all the ropes for our 2017 robot to climb.

Julia aspires: planning to major in Industrial Engineering and Management. Julia motivates: getting enough teammates to stay afterschool to set up an FLL event in just an hour! Julia mentors: from FLL to FRC, she guides students to achieve their goals and plans to continue mentoring after she graduates. Julia inspires: convincing her twin sister, who was more into dance than robots, to join. Julia leads: always taking her roles to the next level with her initiative. Julia impacts: her teams, her community and herself.

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Other Notes:

Though Julia enjoys jewelry, she plans to major in Industrial Engineering and Management, which focuses on optimizing processes, systems or organizations. This is something she already does on 1511.

Given everything Julia does in and outside of robotics, she is a high honor roll student every semester with a high GPA and takes Honors classes.

Other points:

- Freshman year, I helped research, promote and run the All Rookie Meet and Greet at the FRC World Championship.

She has made sure that the legacy of 1511 continues on. Our 2016 Dean's List Finalist asked Julia to make sure her roles and tasks were continued after she graduated, such as Awards submissions and team social media. Julia has made sure she has continued this student's legacy, as well as delegated some of these tasks out as she already does a lot.

Notes from Amy: I need more of what she does outside of the team/FIRST. All of what she does in admirable but Dean's List is about well-rounded students who do more than just FIRST. I want to be wowed by how much she does in all aspects of her life.

Commented [2]: not really sure if this part is necessary, or what criteria it's covering. I like that she is continuing the team legacy and improving it. Maybe we just say that.

Commented [3]: Do you think this is true? I thought a kid who eats, sleeps and breathes FIRST would be a stronger candidate if they have evidence of leadership, etc.

Commented [4]: As a Dean's List Judge and Judge Advisor, I do. Yes, the criteria for DL is this (directly from the Judge Manual):
"Criteria for selection of the FDLA shall include, but not be limited to a student's:
● demonstrated leadership and commitment to the ideals of FIRST;
● effectiveness at increasing awareness of FIRST in the school and community;
● interest in and passion for a long term commitment to FIRST ;
● overall individual contribution to their team;
● technical expertise and passion;
● entrepreneurship and creativity;
● ability to motivate and lead fellow team members."

I think the "technical expertise and passion" and "entrepreneurship and creativity" criteria are open for interpretation. I interpret those to include outside activities, not necessarily STEM related. The phrase "not be limited to" is also important. Having information about outside activities is important for the Q&A and making a final decision. Especially when the applicants just get better and better every year.

Commented [5]: I love having an inside scoop!