

The transformation of Anne-Marie since becoming a member of 1511 has been amazing. When she joined the team as a freshman, she was introverted, shy and often anxious. But she was articulate and a prolific writer and found an easy home in our marketing subteam. She was willing to do any marketing task and was soon groomed to become the next subteam leader. We learned that every day she showed up to team meetings took a giant leap of courage. Social phobia, on top of a heart issue that causes low blood pressure, are challenges that she overcomes daily, and provide great empathy to other team members as they share so much of their time together.

Her leadership skills blossomed and by the 2nd year, she was all in: elected by her peers to be on the leadership team, leading the marketing and website teams, helping coordinate event planning including the FIRST MegaDrive community service event. She seamlessly assimilates new members into the team, putting them right to work.

Anne-Marie found a voice with our STEM legislation advocacy efforts – passionately talking to government representatives, locally and in Albany, about the importance of STEM education. She has noted that as a turning point, a time when she learned the value of speaking out as well as using the written word to spread the FIRST Message. She put those pieces together last year and helped write our Chairman’s essay as well as being one of our presenters. Calm under pressure and with a heartfelt passion, she represented our team with pride.

Anne-Marie showed true entrepreneurial spirit in 2018 when she proposed, planned and executed our first 1511 International Potluck Dinner. Two International FRC teams joined 1511 for an evening of all-American food and socialization. Language was no barrier as Anne-Marie and other members of 1511 taught them American dances that are part of FRC competitions. The 2nd annual event already has 3 international teams signed up and Anne-Marie is organizing 1511 to bring a variety of dishes to feed over the 100 expected attendees.

She also raises funds for the team through water bottle sales, participating in our Patron Drive and requesting PTSA grants. Her other contributions to the team include organizing our Honor Flight community service events where we write letters to veterans flying to DC to visit the war memorials, and then we welcome them back home at the airport. Anne-Marie is also the student organizer of the large FIRST exhibit at the Rochester Maker Faire where local FIRST teams of all levels show off their robots and spread FIRST to the public.

Even though Anne-Marie’s team time is focused on marketing activities, she has mastered the technical tools needed for producing sponsor newsletters and brochures, writing press releases, keeping our website updated and working on the design and build of our robot’s bumpers each year.

Even with spending an average of 4 days a week on robotics activities, she has a full schedule of honors and AP classes and works hard to maintain a GPA of ~93. She fills her spare time with several notable activities: she is part of the HS Ceramics Club and takes ceramics classes in the summer, she used her creativity to make a special Pokemon Showdown account called FIRSTRobotics to share FIRST with the Pokemon community, and she writes. She has 500 pages written of a fantasy / war genre novel.

Anne-Marie sees FIRST in her future, hoping to mentor teams, especially in marketing and Chairman’s activities. She is looking to study genetics and hopes to get a PhD to become a genetics researcher to

work on a gene therapy for genetic diseases such as cystic fibrosis or diabetes. As a dual citizen of Canada and the US, it is likely that she will go to college in Canada.

To Anne-Marie, FIRST and Team 1511 has been a safe place to overcome personal and physical aspects that could hold her back. Her persistence, courage and dedication have transformed her into a highly valued leader, STEM advocate and marketing expert.