

**The student must embody the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition through the *FIRST* Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. Provide examples.**

Marisa embodies *FIRST* values by focusing on making other teams equally competitive. She trains about how to lobby for STEM funding across the country, such as at the STEM Advocacy Conference of Texas and the National and NY State Advocacy Conferences. She advises on Chairman's essays, assists teams during our scrimmage to improve their robots, and has helped teams completely build their robots at competitions!

Marisa works hard to make all feel included by treating everyone equally, and is part of the school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance. She is an empath, working one-on-one with team members who need extra attention, which is important when the fast pace can be overwhelming to newcomers. Even when it can get stressful, she keeps it fun by always being up for a spontaneous song and dance.

**The student must demonstrate how they have increased the awareness of *FIRST*, and have plans to continue to engage with *FIRST* beyond high school. Provide examples.**

Marisa has spent half her life in FLL, FTC & FRC. She stays involved in FLL & FTC by mentoring teams and volunteering at many events. She was promoted to FLL Judge and had great questions and made it a positive experience for the kids! She plans to continue to mentor long after she graduates.

She promotes *FIRST* to 1000s through large-scale events like the Maker Faire and Grateful Red Music Fest, engaging the crowd about *FIRST* as she sells raffle tickets to raise money for Ronald McDonald House. She focuses on spreading *FIRST* to young kids like "Books and Bots" at the library where she read a STEM book, helped kids do a robot STEM craft and demoed the robot. The biggest way she promotes *FIRST* is her advocacy work with politicians who can make an impact through legislation for STEM programs.

**The student must have technical expertise, entrepreneurship, and creativity. How does the student's individual contribution to the team benefit the team as a whole in areas of fundraising, outreach, robot build, programming, etc. Provide examples.**

Marisa is technically proficient, bringing mechanical, electrical, programming and robot coaching knowledge from her FLL and FTC days. On FRC, she brings her CAD and design expertise, leading the Hang Mechanism Design subteam and is on Pit Crew. She is well on her way to her dream of becoming a Biomedical Engineer to design technology that will help kids with disabilities, like her.

Marisa is a changemaker. Her passion for environmental health led her to create the non-profit ROC the Earth, to clean up trash in town, and she presented it to the Town Board at age 8. The Mayor invited her to be part of the town's Energy and Environment Advisory Committee, which she has been on since. She is also part of the New York Youth Climate Leaders, presenting to elected officials on climate change.

**The student's individual contribution to the team benefits the team as a whole in the areas of fundraising, outreach, entrepreneurship, and creativity.**

Marisa's greatest contribution to 1511 is her advocacy work and inspiring others to join the effort. When she was elected to Leadership, she created the Advocacy Leadership role to align with 1511's goals to effect real change. She works with our mentors to set up meetings, create agendas and scripts. She effectively speaks to local and national representatives about our initiatives. Her YouTube Advocacy video, shared by *FIRST*, kept teams' advocacy efforts active during COVID. She helped organize our 2021 NY Advocacy Conference by planning meetings, writing scripts and acting as a facilitator during the meeting. Her bright personality and professionalism has helped us develop invaluable relationships with our local representatives, which has led to the proclamation of a NY State STEM Day!

**Explain the student's leadership to their fellow team members. How do they motivate others? Provide examples.**

Marisa perseveres as a leader and personally. When she is leading a team meeting, writing Chairman's, or building the robot, she overcomes obstacles with grace. When her physical condition limits her, she modifies her work, such as using a tool in a creative way or making parts that can be done sitting down. If she is unable to complete a task, she delegates to make sure it gets done right. Team members see her example and it inspires them to not give up.

Marisa empowers and nurtures; a go-to for pep talks. When she tasked a peer with designing a new pulley system, Marisa let her know she was there for support, giving her the confidence to get it done. The Hang subteam struggled with finalizing their design, but Marisa kept a cool head as Lead, and helped THEM overcome their obstacles.