

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.

Nick is 1511's "Hype Master" who is well-liked and respected. He treats everyone he meets as his friend, making everyone feel welcome and included. He listens to his peers and mentors, which makes them feel valued. He always embodies *FIRST* values because he knows he is representing not only himself, but his school, team, and *FIRST*. This makes him an excellent role model to his peers and younger *FIRST* students he mentors.

He emulates alumni who took him under their wing and treated him like an equal. While leading the shooter subteam, he has students do the work WITH him instead of for him, and delegates tasks to pairs of older and newer students to allow cross training. He creates a cooperative effort where everyone feels respected. His enthusiasm for everything he does makes hard work fun!

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.

Nick is fully invested in *FIRST*. As our Social Media Coordinator, he has increased our team recruitment and public following by promoting *FIRST* on multiple platforms with frequent, engaging posts that are often reposted by *FIRST* and our school district.

He is heavily involved in our advocacy efforts, meeting with local representatives about funding STEM programs like *FIRST*, and training at the National and NY State Advocacy Conferences. Most recently, Nick confidently spoke to Michael Benedetto, Chair of the Committee on Education, for \$250,000 to start more New York *FIRST* teams. Benedetto was so impressed that he promised to speak to the Committee right after our meeting!

Nick's *FIRST* alumni goals are to volunteer at events and mentor. He wants to teach the next generation of *FIRST*ers!

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.

Nick does it all: machine manufacturing, CAD, CNC, MIG welding, 3D printing, even technical writing as a Chairman's essay writer. He takes engineering courses through Project Lead the Way, earning credits at RIT. He's logged 400+ hours during Build Season and *FIRST* outreach events. Outside robotics, he fixes computers and writes iOS apps. During COVID, he taught himself 2 programming languages, and 3D-printed face shields and delivered coffee and snacks to thank frontline workers.

His 3D printing and CAD skills have gotten so good that he is commissioned for projects, such as Christmas ornaments and an Atari kiosk. His YouTube channel has over 40k views where he teaches photography and videography. He taught himself Photoshop and Premiere Pro, which he uses to produce the Chairman's videos.

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

Nick participates in every aspect of the team. Even during COVID, he was part of every game challenge, a Chairman's presenter, and at every team Zoom.

In the summer, he assembled a new swerve drive, taught Girl Scouts to earn their merit badges and mentored Teams Seychelles & Uruguay during the *FIRST* Global challenge. In fall, he mentors his former FTC team and at FLL Help Sessions, and game announces at our FRC off-season event, Ruckus. In winter, he is refereeing and judging at FTC/FLL competitions.

This year, he focused on team recruitment, creating numerous promotional materials to get the word out, bringing in 25 new members! He went a step further to retain the new recruits by getting them to 1511 events and demos; he knew seeing *FIRST* in action would get them hooked, and he was right!

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

Nick is the backbone of 1511. He holds several leadership positions with his exemplary work ethic. He often takes on less desirable tasks understanding that they need to be done for the team to reach its goals. When other students see this, it motivates them to step up as well.

He mentors his peers, building relationships with them while they work on the robot or eat dinner. His excited energy is contagious, whether it is a mechanism that finally works or a fun Chairman's presentation idea, he pumps up his teammates!

He plans and runs weekly 1511 meetings just as he did as Sr. Patrol Leader of his Scout troop, leading 60 scouts. He participated in a National Youth Leadership course and because of his enthusiasm, knowledge and leadership, he was selected to be a staff member the next year.