

Explain how the student embodies the philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopetition through the FIRST Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. Please provide examples.

Calla is friendly and energetic, doing the “Elbow Dance” at competitions, spelling out 1511 in the grass of the DC Mall, and smiling her way through a tough match.

As part of Pit Crew, she helps many other teams, like FRC1585 reset their code to switch from autonomous to teleoperated. She also learns from other teams like 341’s rotary hang mechanism and 1114’s strategic design presentation to inspire improvements within our team.

Calla understands the importance of teamwork by leading our build season integration meetings. She makes sure all build subteams are communicating to create an integrated robot. This is one of the most challenging roles because she has to negotiate many different technical ideas. This is where Calla shines, making sure all ideas are heard and teammates feel valued.

How has the student increased the awareness of FIRST? Describe the student’s interests and/or plans to continue to engage with FIRST beyond high school. Please provide examples.

Calla is a FIRSTer for life! She plans to continue volunteering with FLL and FTC, and has a goal to become a FRC FTA.

She’s promoted FIRST and STEAM to a broader audience at our Grateful Red Music Fest, 4th of July Parade and minor league baseball game demo.

On the Inaugural NYS STEAM Day on November 8, 2022, she gave a well-thought out, interactive presentation to engage over 500 K-5 graders who were excited to see the robot and learn more about FIRST and STEAM.

The most effective way she has increased awareness of FIRST is by attending the National Advocacy Conference. She effectively lobbied for the CHIPS and Science Act, which promotes more U.S. STEM jobs, and the Every Student Succeeds Act. As a result, an historic investment of \$100M more dollars in STEM extracurriculars was approved!

Describe the student's technical expertise, using specific examples in the areas of programming, electronics, design, fabrication, making, illustrating how these skills have contributed to the team's success. Please provide examples.

We are proud that Calla is our first female Base Driver! She earned this position with her numerous, dedicated hours to the team, confidence and willingness to learn.

In her first year, she was elected Electrical Subteam Lead. Her FLL programming expertise helped the robot intake and storage. She brought her systems check knowledge to Pit Crew, her strategy knowledge to Drive Team and was Safety Captain to make us successful in the 2022 season! This year, as Integration Lead, she oversees the overall system integration of the robot.

Her side project is a drivebase prototype that tests different programs including FIRST’s beta testing software. She added swerve modules and LED lights, and wired all components. She also learned about the REV Power Distribution Hub and Apriltags usage.

How does the student's individual contributions to the team benefit the team as a whole in the areas of fundraising, outreach, entrepreneurship, and creativity? Please provide examples.

Calla is a teacher. She created curricula for the programming preseason and Girl Scout Badge Training for scouts to earn all 3 robotics badges. Highly engaged in FLL, she teaches kids the EV3 block code, as well as how to document their progress and process. Calla also volunteers at FLL and FTC qualifiers, and 1511 FRC events, Ruckus and Rally.

As our Preseason Subteam Coordinator, she oversees all 7 subteams, scheduling them weekly so they don’t overlap, finding mentors for each, and ensuring veteran students crosstrain new ones.

Calla learned all about event planning when she organized a Babysitting Night Fundraiser. She had to work with school and district admins, arrange sponsorship for tax-exempt status, follow safety protocols, plan the night's activities and advertise the event.

Explain the student's leadership to their fellow team members. How do they motivate others? What is their leadership style? Please provide examples.

Calla is a STEAM leader: an inclusive, positive role model in and outside of 1511. As a Girl Scout, she earned a Bronze Award for planning and running an afterschool literacy program for preschoolers that the kids loved! During a Big Brothers Big Sisters event, her enthusiasm showing a kid how to drive our robot was inspiring. On the team, she encourages student ideas and involves them in her technical work.

This past summer, she welcomed new students, 2 she recruited, by giving tours of our shop and robots, and explaining all about 1511. This helped prepare them for the season and we've seen more engagement because of it.

This year Calla took the initiative to present to the team a "Lessons Learned" from the 2022 season, with an introduction to strategic design and how to improve teamwork.

How long has the student been involved in FIRST?

8 years: FLLJr, FLL, and FRC