

Team 358, the FESTO and Fonar sponsored Hauppauge Robotic Eagles, has been a FIRST robotics team for eight years and has taken the role of mentor to many different teams. Being a FIRST robotics team for this long allows us to be a successful team, but this is not based on skill at the competition alone. Being successful means more than doing well on the playing field. FIRST defines success as being an all around effective organization. Being effective as a FIRST robotics team means aiding teams in need, promoting our club and the word of FIRST, being successful in competition while demonstrating gracious professionalism and allowing members to awaken their inner-engineering skills.

Team 358 does all that it can to benefit other teams, especially those not as familiar with FIRST as the Robotic Eagles. There are many examples that demonstrate our commitment to accomplishing the mission of FIRST. Primarily, we hold workshops for other teams. We have different workshops for various aspects of the robot which includes programming, electrical, and pneumatics. Our workshops are categorized at different levels -- basic and advanced workshops, in order to provide the needed information to a variety of teams. People that are generally new to FIRST have the basic workshop to attend, where engineers and members of our team will aid them by providing basic information that they need. Advance workshops are for people that are more familiar with aspects of the robot, but who wish to expand their knowledge. At the advance workshops we provide more detailed information for people already have the skills taught at a basic workshop. This year we provided many programming workshops for those who are not familiar in programming the new IR sensors. Also our team allows other teams to use our shop to build parts of their robot. One such team, Roosevelt, used

our workshop throughout the entire season, and built the majority of their robot in our shop. Two years ago, we had the honor of aiding them in accomplishing their rookie year robot and still allow them to use our workshop freely. Our generosity isn't limited to the borders of Long Island. Last year, Team 234, from Indianapolis, asked for a cart to use at the SBPLI regional for their robot, Team 358 was the first to volunteer and created a new cart for them to use during the competition. Throughout the competition our team tries our best to aid other teams so that they can also see and enjoy their robot on the field.

Gracious is to exhibit courtesy and politeness. Professionalism is to utilize and have knowledge of a particular activity as if it was your second nature. Gracious Professionalism is to have the knowledge and utilize courtesy and politeness as if it was our second nature. Throughout the 8 years we have successfully demonstrated gracious professionalism at every competition we participate in. Throughout the whole team we will try our best to aid other teams as much we possibly can. At one of the post season competition, team 2476, a rookie team didn't have a robot so we used one of our old ones and rigged it up where it could have been used in the game. We didn't only lend them a robot but also helped coaching them and teaching them what they have to look for in the coming season. Throughout the games, many teams have a lack of battery and we would provide any team that needs one. Scouting is an important aspect of the competition. But some teams don't have the resources or program to perform scouting. We would give scouting programs to other teams such as team 558 and allow them to know choices they have if they were in a position to pick. Throughout the competition, our team, team 358

would constantly aim not to win but to show gracious professionalism to other teams, to make the competitions a more enjoyable place.

Promoting our team and the FIRST ideals has been one of our team's goals since our rookie year. Throughout the year we tell our community about us, promoting more people to becoming involved in FIRST from our community. For example, during homecoming our team is in the parade and displaying one of our robots to the community. Throughout the parade people would often ask what our robot did. We would explain the competition, some of how the robot worked and give out candy. Students interested in the robot would be encouraged to come to the next meeting.

Homecoming is not the only event where we promote robotics. Near Halloween our school hosts an event called "Safe Halloween," which is a day where several activities for kids are established within the school. We would set up booths where kids can go trick or treating. Team 358 would run one of those activities —usually a game that we created, which one of our robots would be used within it. For the past 2 years we have used the "2004" robot and elements of other games. Each child would have a chance to shoot a 2006 pool ball into a 2003 box held in the arms of our robot. If a pool ball is scored we would give them candy. This is significant because throughout the day there aren't only kids that are interested in the robot but parents also. The parents can potentially become involved with FIRST either as a volunteer or as a mentor, whether at Hauppauge, or another school.

Each year Team 358 would participate in is the Middle School Science fair. We would request a booth so that we can demonstrate our previous year robot. This is extremely important because it promotes to those that will soon be entering high school.

We would often hear responses such as “Awesome!” from those viewing our robot and we encourage them to join the LEGO team which is offered at the Middle school. The LEGO team is a good building block to promote the FIRST ideals and start students into the FIRST program.

We don't only limit our promotions of FIRST to our community. Our team had to present what FIRST is about in front of other districts superintendent hoping that they would be interested in implementing the program within their school also. We showed one of our previous robots and showed what it can do and each officer of the team would talk about the impact FIRST had upon them. Through this presentation the officers talked about how FIRST has taught them valuable skills that they gained that would help them to perform different task in their future. Throughout this day we have showed many superintendents that this program would benefit both the community and the students. Team 358 promotes as much as we can to the community, not only about our team, but also about FIRST in general.

Members of Team 358 come in as freshman, unskilled onlookers, not even knowing what an Allen key is, but after four years the members graduate as engineering enthusiasts. Team 358, the Hauppauge Robotic Eagles takes a hands-on approach to educating its members in the science of robot building. Our engineers are the mentors of our learning process. Our engineer's expertise varies from electrical to design, mechanical to programming, and more. Every meeting, especially in the beginning of the school year, our members are split into groups depending on the discipline that they want to learn. Each engineer, with the help of older students, teaches the team members

directly on what to do, and what everything is. After a few meetings, each student is able to choose which field he or she would like to focus on.

Team 358, the Hauppauge Robotic Eagles are proud to be part of FIRST. Each day we strive to become better at what we do. Preparing our members for future endeavors, lending a hand to other teams, and improving our community are what we are best at. FIRST gives us the opportunity to channel our intuition, sportsmanship, and technological skills into one main purpose, to strengthen the foundation for tomorrow's engineers.