

FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FIRSTawards

Chairman's Website Woodie Flowers



[home](#) [about](#) [profile](#) [logout](#)

Below is the entry you have submitted for the Chairman's Award. You may log in and view it at any time.

Event: **Midwest Regional**

Submitted: 02/23/2006

Your Team Number: 111

Team Name, Corporate / University Sponsors: Motorola & Rolling Meadows High School & Wheeling High School

Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants.

- Importance of teamwork
- Engineering skills
- How companies work
- How math and science work in real life
- To take responsibility for own future
- See what inspires engineers
- See reward for hard work
- Gain confidence
- Impacted by energy level & commitment of team members
- Hands on experience in potential career field
- Receive guidance regarding career direction
- Achieve self worth by being on team FIRST
- Scholarships given to students
- Help others
- Network with new people

Examples of role model characteristics for other teams to emulate.

- Mentor new FIRST teams (yearly)
- Mentored over 30 Lego League teams
- Roam the pits to aid teams at competitions
- Share scouting information
- Company-like team organization gives real world experience
- Safety advocates
- 1st semester robotics class for FIRST
- Many instances of team members volunteering to help run FIRST competitions
- Help needy in the community
- Hire graduating students as interns & eventually as engineers at Motorola
- Participate in FIRST events all year long

Describe the impact of the FIRST program on your team and community.

- Over 550 students on team in 11 years
- Students become more involved in school
- FIRST Scholarships received by team members
- Strong mentor-student relationships
- Recognized by school board & local city councils
- Annual 4th of July & Homecoming floats

Images:



Annual Technology Day for grades 4 & up
HELP & DONATIONS
Held computer drive for donation to 3rd world schools
Held needy children gift drive
Conducted Bingo game at retirement home
Clothing drive
Participated in Katrina Benefit

Teams innovative methods to spread the FIRST message.

Featured on 6 TV programs
City of Rolling Meadows proclaimed Tie-Dye Day in honor of WildStang
PRESENTATIONS
Illinois State Assembly in Springfield
High School teachers robotics seminar at College of DuPage
Booth at Illinois Technology Fair
Chicago Public Schools Technology Day for grades 4 and up
Held elementary school Tie-Die Day
ROBOT DEMONSTRATIONS
FLL competitions
Freshman orientation night
Take Your Child to Work Day
US Congress – Washington, DC

Describe the strength of your partnership.

11 year partnership with Motorola
STUDENT CYCLE
Graduate High School
job as summer intern at Motorola
Graduate college
work for Motorola as engineer
Mentor High School team
Teachers & engineers created 1st semester robotics class that runs yearly
Engineers available to students on daily basis - year round
Students get exposure to corporate environment, see how engineers work
Students respect engineers for their contributions & dedication
Mentors provide role models for students

Teams communication methods and results.

TEAM WEBSITE
Over 18,000 messages have been posted
Meetings, announcements, and deadlines posted on web, students & mentors check daily
Weekly student assignments posted on web
Weekly team meeting held for each sub-team to present their current status & synchronize team
Quarterly letters mailed to student homes to keep parents involved
Result of communication process is to keep team of 90 people (students & mentors) coordinated

Other matters of interest to the FIRST judges, if any.

Host annual pre-ship competition for local teams
Host pre-season competition for local teams to expose new students to FIRST
Supplied and built robot parts for rookie team

"It's great to see youthful enthusiasm in the students we teach. The enthusiasm students have about technology will inspire them to do great things someday. If I can be part of any good experience the students have when they are involved in the program, it makes me feel like I make a difference not just in their lives, but many lives that are touched by them and the entire program." This is what Motorola software engineer Kristin Schultz feels embodies WildStang, Team 111. It is what brings the mentors back each year; some have participated for 11 years.

WildStang offers more exposure to different career paths than any program in High School District 214. It is one of the few programs in the district that meets year-round and is an academic class. During the first semester, WildStang students look forward to a class meeting each week. The class teaches technical fundamentals, includes a mini robotics (VEX) competition and prepares the team for the FIRST season. For the final six weeks of the semester, students focus on specific technical skills needed for the build season, with sessions taught by engineer mentors. During this time teachers and mentors are able to show how classroom subjects, trigonometry for example, are used in real-life engineering. Students begin the second semester by participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) kickoff and use the next 6 ½ weeks to brainstorm, design, build and ship a robot. After the ship deadline, students continue to meet for match strategy, to practice with a prototype robot and gear up to promote WildStang at competitions.

WildStang does many other things besides just building a robot. The team models itself after a company by forming 12 departments called subteams. Each subteam completes tasks to make WildStang successful. For example, students on different subteams have the opportunity to learn iMovie, Easy C, Palm OS, AutoDesk, RoboLab, Adobe and Corel software programs. Subteams are formed to do engineering, marketing, finance, animation, video, strategy and more. These experiences prepare students for college and future careers, as well as increase their appreciation for science and technology.

Some students on WildStang have been recognized for their talent and awarded scholarships. For example, in 2002, WildStang team member Armando Gomez received a full scholarship for engineering to Kettering University.

Many students on WildStang hope to become future mentors. WildStang students not only learn from mentors, but the mentors learn from students as well. Together with Motorola, WildStang offers a unique Student to Mentor Cycle. WildStang students go to college, and then with the help of Motorola mentors, participate in summer internships at Motorola. Upon college graduation, many become employed by Motorola, and then become adult mentors on the team. There have been 28 past and present members that have participated in this cycle.

Throughout the 11 year partnership, Motorola has given WildStang access to resources including a model shop, space to build a playing field, engineers that specialize in all aspects of the team, and financial support. Motorola's Museum of Electronics is the home of the year end awards celebration. WildStang students, teachers, and parents have great appreciation for Motorola because of its contributions and dedication to the WildStang team and the FIRST organization.

Communication plays a large part in the success of WildStang. The team website, www.wildstang.org, is the main channel of communication. Meetings, announcements, deadlines, and questions are asked and answered promptly through this site. Currently over 18,000 messages and responses have been posted. Additionally, at the weekly team meeting, each subteam discusses its current status. To keep parents in the loop, they are invited to meetings, and there are quarterly letters mailed to students' homes. These letters include meeting information and other opportunities for parents to be involved. In September, there is a welcome barbecue for the parents, students, mentors, and teachers to get acquainted. During the barbecue an outline of the team's plans for the year is presented. In May, an awards night is held to honor the hard work that everyone put forth throughout the entire year, and team DVDs and yearbooks are distributed. This awards night is attended by students, mentors, teachers, school administration, Motorola management, families, and community members as they all share in the team's successes. WildStang starts each year as individuals interested in robotics, and ends as a well-networked family. As a result of effective communication, 90 students, mentors, and teachers are able to coordinate the activities required to run the team.

This summer, WildStang will be hosting a RoboCamp for middle school students to develop interest in First Lego League (FLL). Each year, over 40 team members assist in running the State FLL competition. Over the years, the school board, local city councils, local media and national media have recognized WildStang. All school assemblies have been held at each school to celebrate the team's successes as well.

WildStang has had an impact on the community. Over the last 11 years, more than 550 students have assisted in projects such as raking leaves, playing BINGO with the elderly, collecting and donating clothing and school supplies, participating in Hurricane Katrina

relief efforts, and donating computers to under-privileged students in a Third World country. For the last two years, WildStang has collected computers, monitors, and accessories from the community. The machines were sorted, hard drives were wiped out, reformatted, and then packed for shipping. With the help of Digital Aid Inc., the computer equipment was sent to underprivileged schools in Africa. To get K-6 kids excited about WildStang and its tie-dye colors, a tie-dye mini-course was held at a feeder elementary school. There, the team taught the children how to tie-dye t-shirts.

WildStang has had great success in communicating and promoting the FIRST experience. Team members have presented at locations including local libraries, the State Capitol of Illinois, and the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. WildStang has demonstrated and promoted FIRST to Chicago Public and Private schools and each year at a teachers' seminar at a local community college. Team robots have been demonstrated at "Take Your Child to Work Day" at Motorola campuses, Illinois Technology Day and Careers in Engineering Night. A presentation at Caterpillar Inc in 2005, helped the company to decide to start two teams in Peoria, IL for the 2006 season. The WildStang team is a pilot school for VEX Robotics, and as such spreads the word for FIRST's new competition. On the 4th of July in Rolling Meadows, WildStang won the Mayor's Cup, the highest award for overall parade entry. The team is in the schools' newspapers multiple times each year. Feature articles about the WildStang team have been printed in the local Pioneer Press, The Daily Herald, Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, and Associated Press. Additionally, WildStang has been showcased on several television programs: UPN's Up' N Running, a WTTW (PBS) documentary highlighting FIRST and WildStang, Fox Thing in the Morning, NBC Morning News, a CBS live morning segment, and a live National CNN interview. The team is also shown on the websites of Rolling Meadows and Wheeling High Schools and the school district. By being able to share the message of FIRST through different outlets, WildStang hopes to encourage more people to embrace the excitement of engineering and technology.

Through its actions, WildStang leads by example. The team has mentored over 30 FLL teams. Both past and present members of WildStang volunteer to mentor FLL teams and run the state competition, FIRST FRC Regional Competitions, and The Championship Event. WildStang volunteers each year to mentor rookie FRC teams. Twice, WildStang has had the privilege of mentoring the team that won the "Rookie of The Year" Award at the Midwest Regional. A pre-season invitational in December has been held for new teams and new members of existing local teams and their families to create excitement and enthusiasm for the upcoming season. Also, WildStang hosts the annual "WildStang Test Drive", giving other teams the opportunity to practice and compete with their robots on a full scale playing field shortly before ship-day. Once at competitions, WildStang's scouting subteam collects data on Palm Pilots, compiles it, and makes it available to other teams. Also at competitions, WildStang opens its pit to other teams, encouraging them to ask mentors and students questions, gain knowledge, and use team equipment. During such events WildStang cheers not only for their team, but for many other teams to show appreciation for their hard work. In fact, students observe other teams for two days at competitions, then, present the most deserving teams "WildStang Awards". Two years ago, upon arriving at the Midwest Regional, Team 1365 discovered that their crate and robot had been destroyed in shipping. WildStang students and mentors worked with them nonstop to rebuild their robot by the time the matches began. Team members compassionately try to make hard work pay off, whether it is the success of WildStang, other teams, or the whole FIRST community.

WildStang has gone to great lengths to spread the excitement of engineering, science and technology, and to promote gracious professionalism through team cooperation, volunteerism and leadership. Through FIRST, students have learned about technology, time management, and responsibility to the community, along with gracious professionalism while being inspired and inspiring others.

In its quest for perfection, the team works year round. This has inspired the unofficial team motto of "WildStang. Never Done".

This entry was not submitted towards fulfilling the Nasa Grant requirements.

By entering my name below, I agree that I have read my teams Regional Chairman's Award submission and have personal knowledge that the statements and claims made are complete and accurate.

Team Captain / Student Representative :

Timothy Andrew Syoen

Team Mentor :

Dan Green