Describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants within the last 3 years. Think about percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, leadership skills, and serving as mentors/sponsors in FIRST programs.

In the past 3 years, we have had a 100% graduation rate (98.9% District Avg). A vast majority of students have attended college. Among graduating seniors going to college, 76% pursued STEM degrees. 5 former team members returned to mentor in the past 3 years, 4 of which returned right after graduating high school while in college. 4 OZone team members were lead mentors for some of our FTC teams & 5 more members mentored at the start of the FTC season, helping with strategy & design prototypes.

Describe your community along with its unique opportunities and circumstances. Think about your geographic region, diversity of town/school, language barriers, socioeconomic barriers, and cultural expectations.

Lewis Center is located north of Columbus, OH in Delaware County. Delaware County is the fastest growing county in the state, along with the Olentangy School District being the fastest growing district. Demographically, Olentangy is 75% White, 13% Asian, 5% African American & 3% Hispanic. Our district is the fourth largest district in Ohio & all 4 high schools are ranked in the top 5% academically in the state. Olentangy has 17 Elementary, 6 Middle and 4 High Schools as well as a STEM School.

Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the FIRST Mission in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.

We've put a focus on expanding the reach of our FIRST programs. We increased our FTC program from 2 to 3 teams (1 all girl team) & then to 6 teams (2 all girl teams). We've focused on expanding outreach to elementary & middle schools through an annual STEM Camp (Camp OZone). We've also increased exposure to FIRST through presentations to the district school board & at the Olentangy State of the Schools showcase, which encourages students, faculty, & parents to get involved in robotics & STEM.

Describe your team's goals and the progress you have made towards them to fulfill FIRST's Vision.

Our team has 3 core goals: Develop a culture of teamwork through collaboration & communication, broaden the scope of STEM through the Olentangy School District & expand opportunities for students to learn & get involved with robotics. We've accomplished these goals through the pipeline of students we've reached through our FTC program & Camp OZone. We have 48 students involved in FTC & host 600

Olentangy elementary & middle schoolers at our annual STEM Camp, badge training & school visits.

What impact has your team seen from your efforts described in the above question? How does your team measure impact?

We measure success through team participation. We engage as many students as possible & our reach to new members has grown thanks to our open houses. Prior to 2023, our open houses were only attended by interested students, who already knew of our team. In the past 3 years, we've had 500+ people attend these events. They've expanded to include our FTC teams & attendance has grown from interested students to community members. We've grown by 30% since 2023 & have added 8 new mentors.

Please provide specific examples of how your team and team members act as role models for the *FIRST* community with emphasis on the past 3 years. How do you share these best practices with other teams?

Last season, we had a significant impact on team 9545 - Caracal Robotics from Turkey. After qualifying for Worlds at the Buckeye Regional, we stored, made repairs & transported their robot to Worlds for them. We helped them make code changes & kept in contact during the 2025 season. We have published code the past 3 years on our GitHub & have resources for code, build and media relations on our website. Being a top Python coded robot, we've shared the benefits of switching to Python with teams.

Describe your team's initiatives to Mentor and/or Start other *FIRST* teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.

We've built a pipeline of FIRST Tech Challenge teams. In 2023, we had 2 FTC teams, this expanded to 3 in 2024 including 1 all girl team. In 2025, we registered 6 FTC teams, with two all-girls teams. 4 of these teams had lead student mentors from our FRC team. These teams have been pivotal in increasing the flow of students through our pipeline from our FTC program to joining our FRC team. We have 48 students on our FTC teams, growing from 36 students in 2024 & 12 in 2021.

What other initiatives have you created, grown, sustained, or participated in (*FIRST* or otherwise) to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What outcomes have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?

We created Camp OZone, a K-8 STEM Camp open to all students in our district. Students participate in engineering & coding activities & get to drive our robots. Students who attend Camp OZone get direct STEM experience not offered anywhere

else in the district. In the past 3 years, 400+ camp students have experienced the ins & outs of circuitry, coding & engineering. We've also hosted 2 girl scout troops for robotics badges & have engaged with our community at various district-hosted gatherings.

Describe the partnerships and relationships that you've created with other organizations (teams, sponsors, educational institutions, government, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together, with emphasis on the past 3 years.

OZone has partnered with the Olentangy STEM Academy & was able to secure a full practice field space with the renovations to the Academy in 2024. Our sponsors Ryerson & Skyclimber have provided metal donations & laser cutting & we have brought our robot to Skyclimber & Lakeshore Cryotronics to give demonstrations. We have also received guidance & training from a mentor from Insight, which is one of our high-level sponsors. We have also partnered with the DoDSTEM program to grow robotics in Ohio.

Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote STEM for Everyone™ within your team, *FIRST*, and your communities.

OZone has strived to promote STEM for Everyone through the addition of 2 all girl FTC teams. Growing from 2 FTC teams with low girl participation in 2023 to 2 all girl teams with high performing robots in 2025, we believe that these all girl teams will increase female participation at the FRC level, as we have already seen a 50% increase since last year. Since our district lacks diversity, we take pride in our team diversity, since our team is currently 51% Asian, 42% White & 7% Black.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will be sustainable.

To sustain growth, throughout the Olentangy Area, we are committed to continuing STEM initiatives such as Camp OZone. With this event, we have built a scalable blueprint that can sustain student interest in STEM for many years. We have also created a pipeline of FTC teams that will sustain & grow our team with dedicated students. By having a large pool of students with prior robotics experience, we can help new students learn skills faster to ensure we design, build & code high quality robots.

Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.

OZone has made an emphasis to increase female participation on our team & in the STEM field. We've done this through the creation & mentorship of 2 all girl FTC teams, including recruiting new female mentors. With this addition, we've made sure that at least 1/3 of our FTC students are girls. We've also worked with local Girl Scout troops,

helping them to earn their robotics badge, showing them the possibilities of women in STEM & the importance of learning engineering skills at an early age.

Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* Judges, including items that may not fit into the above topics. The judges are interested in learning about aspects of your team that may be unique, particularly noteworthy or had a large impact.

We transitioned our coding language from Java to Python in the 2025 season. While this was an arduous process for our programming students, we were able to learn a lot. The number of Python teams in FRC is relatively low & we've helped the Python community by sharing our code base publicly. Making this switch has allowed us to be a resource for other Python teams & we have been able to explain what we've learned from the transition with other teams.

(OPTIONAL - limited to 250 characters including spaces and punctuation) Please use this space to ask 1 question to your *FIRST* Impact Award Judges which will be answered after each event with feedback from the judges.

After seeing the impact our team has had over the past 3 years, how can we use our team's infrastructure to build stronger bonds, promote FIRST, and expand our impact throughout our community to help make us a more well-rounded team?