Khushi Patel

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

Khushi is a natural role model to many, and passionate about FIRST to spread its message globally. Her curiosity motivates her to master complex systems, including designing, building and programming bi-copters at the early age of 11. Her level of enthusiasm for STEM inspires her peers to be excited to learn difficult engineering concepts helping them problem solve together. Focused on the big picture, she finds time as a Fun Day committee member creating experiences to ensure everyone can take time to destress and enjoy their FIRST experiences. Perhaps her most important work involves co-founding a non-profit STEM organization called Innovire. Through Innovire, she has held events for 300+ students, held hack-a-thon competitions and fundraised for the SickKids Hospital. Khushi understands that her accomplishments are just the start of her ambitious future to pursue a STEM based career. She strives to continue to improve her world while promoting FIRST's vision of a culture renewed.

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.

As a FLL participant, she led her team to the provincial championships and continued to mentor and support three FLL teams, passing onto younger generations the skills learned from her own FIRST experience. Khushi created and led our online technical workshops for new to country students. This allowed us to expand our demographic across the GTA to children who have not experienced FIRST before. Leading the Beyond Borders program, Khushi actively mentors teachers and students in India to take part in STEM and FLL workshops. She incorporated FIRST robot demos in events for Innovire to expose FIRST to new audiences. With 1241's Girls in STEM Olympics (GiSO), she led the Innovation Fair to create a network between 65 high school students and professional company exhibitors for career opportunities. In the future, Khushi wants to be a technical mentor and advocate for female mentors across FIRST programs in order to motivate more girls to join FIRST teams and pursue STEM careers.

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

During the 2020 FRC season Khushi was the co-lead designer and manufacturer for the robot's intake, constantly iterating for material choices and geometry. As a freshman, Khushi took it upon herself to become technically trained on the shop's machines, naturally inspiring her peers to do the same. Khushi has a driving passion to learn app development and has taken it upon herself to learn HTML and Javascript coding. Her motto is "the more I can learn, the more I am able to help others". Leveraging her skills, Khushi led the young participants at GiSO through a mechanical engineering based workshop, utilizing a cross-platform mobile application for a projectile motion simulator which she helped create. Khushi also mentors young children from our local library in online workshops using virtual robots, block based programming and Javascript. Always leading by example, Khushi is now the driving force in every facet of 1241 from the robot to community outreach.

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

Khushi is humble, nurturing and has a level of maturity beyond her age. With her democratic leadership style, she always encourages others to participate and share different ideas when brainstorming. She believes that presenting different ideas boosts creativity so she encourages everyone to share using different tools such as discussion, interactive surveys, forms and polls. She is also incredibly adaptable. When teaching workshops, she confidently creates a fun, engaging environment, but also steps back to take on small roles such as time keeper so that her peers gain confidence in a teaching setting. Khushi is always creating space for her peers to lead and grow, but her greatest success is her ability to lead by example. While taking on daunting tasks such as networking with people across the world, building complex machines, or even creating her own non-profit organization, Khushi showcases that anyone has the potential to create an impact that is truly extraordinary.