

## Chairman's Award - Team 6025

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2020 - Team 6025

**Team Number**

6025

**Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors**

Bahcesehir Anatolian Highschool

**Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last five years.**

In preceding seasons each and every team member developed interest, aim and profession about STEM fields by designing, building or programing. Thus 25/27 of our alumni chose STEM related majors in top universities such as WPI, Purdue, UBC, Koç etc. When entering these universities every member is equipped with 21st century skills by increased self confidence, ability of working as a team and communication knowledge. Success in, leadership & innovation & entrepreneurship is a plus comes within.

**Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community within the last five years.**

With our special effort our community will gain a field of employment thanks to FIRST. This way unemployment will be reduced. (Recruit FIRST) Girls were encouraged to believe in themselves. Many of them chose a STEM related career. (Ladies in FIRST) By dint of FIRST we created an online form in order to solve our community's problems. They told what their problem was and we found an innovative solution. (Solutions For Daily Headaches)

**Describe the team's methods for spreading the *FIRST* message in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.**

We collaborated with people from all around the world (AA Europe/Turkey Camp), created job opportunities for unemployed engineers as mentors (Recruit FIRST), found ourself a voice from parliament, associated with congressmen (FIRST in Congress), appeared on TV several times, hosted the first ever FLL off season in Turkey (BLL), created opportunities for the unfortunate (FIRST For All) in order to raise awareness towards FIRST.

**Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other *FIRST* team members to emulate**

As 6025 we did workshops all around the world. We traveled from pillar to post and covered a total of 13239 km reaching over 3400 people. (AA Turkey + Europe Camp) Under the guidance of these workshops 13 teams were formed. AA volunteered 3500+ hours. As team 6025 we acted benevolently to anyone and everyone who reached to us. This attitude gained us positive feedback from rookies telling us they wanted to be like us when they become veterans.

**Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams**

Standardizing FIRST-15 teams will be formed for the upcoming season in centers for gifted teens and in later seasons this number will be extended to 165. AA Turkey Camp-With the aim of informing people about FIRST we gave workshops in 8 different cities forming 11 FRC teams. AA Europe Camp-Borders were not an obstacle. We encouraged first ever Ukrainian team and formed the first ever Italian team. We reached 1000+ people.

**Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC)**

We mentored and formed 45 FLL teams all over our country. We organized the first ever FLL Off-Season in Turkey with the attendance of 82 teams. AA Turkey Camp-With the aim of informing people about FIRST we gave workshops in 8 different cities forming 17 FLL teams.

**Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other *FIRST* teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC) with progressing through the *FIRST* program**

Supply FIRST-We were inspired from our rookie year & aimed to supply robot parts to other teams through our website. In total we have provided \$7000 assistance to teams in need. Recruit FIRST-We are organizing a certificate program for unemployed engineers & graduates to bring more experienced mentors to FIRST. PorAAI-We created a discussion forum in order to help teams in various issues, uploaded informative videos, sent them published resources and answered their questions.

**Describe how your team works with other *FIRST* teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced *FIRST* teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC teams)**

With our motto "Together to achieve more" collaboration is inevitable. Together we encouraged first ever FRC team in Ukraine (7851) with 1710. We are mentoring 4 teams with 3646. With the team we formed and mentored, 6999 located in Sinop, we formed and mentored 7637 and 7010. This way through our outstanding effort, Sinop became the city with the most FRC teams in the Blacksea region.

**Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors**

Alkomet is a metal processing center which does our laser cuts. Metal Market D?? Ticaret A.?, is one of the leading steel trading and manufacturing companies of Turkey and is also one of the top 100 exporters of Turkey. Casper is one of the biggest computer manufacturing facilities in Europe. Sayg? Tekstil serves the textile markets with high-tech equipment as well as using full automatic weaving jacquard machines to produce high quality fashion fabrics.

**Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors within the last five years.**

We do not only accept financial support from our sponsors, but also see them as our partners. For instance for Dostel we provided interns from our Alumni. Other sponsors like Voonka and Lumos provided us with ideas and resources concerning prototype. We made a catalog where they can choose one of our products. We produce what they require and exchange it with their support. Annually we organize "Sector Meetings" and invite our sponsors in order to find cooperative support for FIRST.

**Describe how your team would explain what *FIRST* is to someone who has never heard of it**

FIRST is generously-equipped, well rounded 21st century education model. Students who participate in any FIRST program graduates with having skills beyond programming, designing or just changing cultures ;) FIRST is an opportunity for future leaders to shine by learning skills and traits essential to being successful in their careers. Their aim is to inspire a generation, empowering today's students to become tomorrow's world leaders in every field imaginable.

**Briefly describe other matters of interest to the *FIRST* judges, if any**

In every corner of world us & our peers are under a lot of pressure, especially ones with potential. Expectations are quite high & almost impossible to fulfill. As 6025 we see FIRST as a way to escape while improving ourselves in every aspect. FRC has showed us how to shape our theoretical knowledge into something applicable and how to benefit from it. It showed us what mattered was beyond the numbers in your GPA or how well you do at school. This is exactly why we come together to achieve more.

**For FRC teams older than 5 years, briefly describe your team's broader impact from its inception.**

If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. We wanted to share our knowledge and experience to pave the way for FRC all around the world. We played a role in increasing the number of teams from 27 to more than 190 by spreading FIRST and its values in our country. (AA Turkey Camp) We wanted to widen our sphere of influence by going beyond our borders and took the first steps to form the first ever FRC teams in Europe (AA Europe Camp).

**Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission.**

Elif Beril KARABACAK

## Essay

It's our 5th year filled with beautiful memories, full of numerous emotions. We faced many obstacles our country was & still is in financial crisis, we're sharing borders with conflict zones & the list goes on. People came & went, things happened, fur flew but our alumni, our passion for FIRST & we stayed united, we made sure by organizing AAlumnights & sessions.

### AA Turkey Camp

We started this journey with 27 teams in our country it was hard to find support, partner, insurance & anything needed. In order to provide these we traveled across the mainland, covered a distance in total of 13239 km, formed FRC teams in 6 regions of Turkey (6999/7070/6430/6874/8031/BatX) Teams we created (6999) has even created other teams (7637, 7010) in collaboration with us. In the 2018 season we provided \$20000 worth sponsorship to 6999. All of their transportation, accommodation, registration fee & robot parts were provided by us. This year we traveled more, doing workshops & forming 3 more teams. We went to Batman, Balıkesir, Bursa & assisted them with their team registration process. This season we will make them experience FIRST by taking them to our regional event. They will be competing with our support in the upcoming season.

### Standardizing FIRST

In order to widen our target group we worked with the Ministry Of Education of Turkey and special education centers for gifted ones called "Bilsem". We reached an agreement about creating teams for them with Mr. K?l?ç, the Director of Special Education Centers in Turkey. This year we're visiting Bilsem's throughout Istanbul & started one of them. In the upcoming season we will be forming 15 teams in Istanbul, the city we've chosen as a starting point. We presented them the curriculum we designed as a team in order to teach every detail about FRC; with this curriculum they will learn to be sustainable by themselves. It will become valid in upcoming years. The agreement states that we will be forming teams as the seasons go by, creating 165 teams in total all over Turkey, at these education centers.

### AA Europe Camp

We realized that borders weren't an obstacle for us so we decided to create teams around Europe. The first ever Ukrainian team 7851 was encouraged & Italian team 7012 was formed. In prior years we paid for 7012's registration fee, accommodation & transportation for the Turkish Off-Season. For the upcoming season we're planing on organizing an off-season with our sponsors in England. Last year we went to England in order to compromise with our main sponsor about the date & place.

### Recruit FIRST

Creating teams, we never let their problems go. First thing we realized was the requirement towards mentoring. In order to solve this we created a certificate training program. Our main aim was to create a field of work around FIRST while mentoring teams. This way we found solution to two problems: unemployment & lack of mentors. As a first step we're targeting 70 unemployed engineers. They will be trained & ready to be mentors. We're in the process of organizing it with Living Lab, an institution established by Basaksehir Municipality. They agreed to host the event & be the one to award certificates.

### Supply FIRST

In our rookie year a problem was faced, our kit of parts was flooded with water. With the flicker started from there & others' problems, we started a supply chain. We created a website with a form where teams can inform us about their needs & we either give them what they need from the robot parts which we're not using or we share it with our sponsors. This way we reduce the landfill waste that could be created by unused but in-good condition robot parts. Overall 16 team's needs are met with a \$7000 budget.

### Solutions For Daily Headaches

AA had always been interested with communities' problems. Therefore we created an online form which people of all ages can contact us indicating their headaches & we found solutions for them. These solutions are such as but not limited to;

Inventing a way to end the waste of water usage in washing machines with ozone.

Creating a fishing net that would not trap fish & pollute our oceans.

Making a beehive that would end a bee disease.

AA has 8 pending and 4 confirmed patents.

### FIRST For All

As the ones inside FIRST teams we're quite lucky but some kids out there are not. So we created our initiative Robotics 101 with the ambition of being hope to unfortunate ones. Our first target group was refugees. Turkey has faced a refugee issue since 2011 & has related foundations. We worked with one of the biggest foundation "Hayata Destek" for three years & reached over 200 children. Our second target group was orphans, we went to orphanages & gave workshops in order to introduce them to FIRST. In total 250 children were inspired. This year we widened our target group with deaf people, people with autism, people physically handicapped, ones with Asperger's syndrome. We created a special training program just for their needs. We entertained, inspired and engaged their creativity. Overall 503 kids were encouraged.

### Ladies in FIRST

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While doing our projects we realized that girls were more likely to stop believing that they can be in jobs related to STEM fields in early ages. For instance they were not sure that they could be as good as boys while designing robots. Notwithstanding this fact we set up an event called "Ladies in FIRST". In this event we invited five women in prestigious positions in their fields related to STEM. We've been hosting this event annually for four years. Every year we decide on an up-to-date topic & our speakers deliver their speech with special emphasis on gender discrimination, gender pay gap, patriarchy. With this event 556 girls have been inspired over the passing years. This year in collaboration with 7742, 7830; we increased this number by 397 girls reaching a total of 953. Our topic was #EqualizeUs. "After they delivered their speeches, I felt powerful & independent." our alumna Sudenaz Kurtulu? remarked. Now she is studying Mechanical Engineering. In addition to this event we made a video with kids about the gender pay gap under the title of our theme. In total this video met with 20k+ viewers.

**FIRST in Congress**

We carried out projects to spread robotics & STEM, to raise awareness & propagate FIRST far & wide in order to carry out our motto "Together To Achieve More". Which means collaborating, sharing and caring everyone around the globe without any kind of discrimination. For this ambition Turkish Congress was the perfect fit since it enables everyone's thoughts to come together in our country. We explained how FIRST made us an advantage & taught us to be beneficial for our country as quality labor force. We found our team a representative & 4 partners from congressmen in order to formalize FIRST. "You're such an honor to our country & we're proud of you." said Mr. Tüzün. They agreed with us to express FIRST values, importance of STEM & our mission in parliament.

**FIRSTquake**

We are an earthquake-prone country & in previous months we had several earthquakes. We realized that we were in need of protection, with the inspiration taken from this we formed our project FIRSTquake & we went to the most qualified institution in this field, Kandilli Observatory. From the knowledge gained from the experts we #madeitsafe. Our lab is now earthquake-safe. We immobilized everything which caused danger & took videos while doing it, posted in YouTube in order to be an example so teams can do the same. We made a post & created a hashtag & started a challenge aiming everyone to make their labs safe. We reached over 16 teams & they made their labs safe.

**FIRST Out Of Water**

We always targeted the little ones around us since they're always ready to receive & learn. We were fascinated by their projects & we wanted to hear more & see their robots from legos. We decided to organize the first ever FLL off-season in Turkey. With the name of BLL 82 teams all over Turkey came together. This year we organized a science festival just for middle schoolers. We made their first experience as fun as we possibly could think of. We did seven different experiments & introduced FIRST to them, forming an FLL team which will compete in the upcoming season. More than 700 children were encouraged.

**The HUG**

One day we were informed about a puppy who had fallen into an artesian pipe. Though bag & tag day was coming we set aside everything came together as a team, did some brain storming & prepared a robotic arm with the knowledge we gained from FIRST in order to save him. We cooperated with non-governmental organizations, it was hard work all night but in the end the puppy was safe & sound. This project reached 20M+ people. Since it went viral globally, our impact was huge. We got phone calls from TV channels & radio programs for us to participate, narrate our story. Even a professor from Stanford University Oussama Khatib, came to our school just to meet & congratulate us. One of the most successful scenarist in our country, Oscar nominee nominee Yigit Guralp got in touch with us & wanted to make a movie out of the story of the puppy we helped to be saved, Kuyu. The movie will be out in upcoming years as "the Hug". With this movie we will be the first ever Turkish FRC team to be a part of the silver screen. In upcoming years we're aiming to reach 10M+ people via the movie.

Besides our initiatives, AA carries out 65 outreach projects. All of these projects aim to detect & solve the issues of our community. AA also helps other FRC teams by assisting 35 teams in total. Adroit Androids is our vision of a future robotics team, not only finding enduring solutions but creating long lasting change in our community, culture & other FIRST teams' perspective by inspiring, starting & continuing full-fledged & viable resolutions using science & technology.