

## FIRST Impact Award - Team 8557

**2025 - Team 8557**

**Team Number**

**8557**

**Team Nickname**

ConquEra

**Team Location**

Manisa, 45 - Türkiye

**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.**

The FIRST experience has guided about 80% of our members greatly on deciding which field they should pursue in the future, as observable by 20% of our graduates pursuing STEM and/or STEM-related fields post-graduation, including our alumni who have not yet graduated high school optimistic about following a similar path in 2025. This impact also holds true for our current members, with 86% of students currently working for and aspiring to advance in STEM-related fields in the future.

**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.**

Our team includes people from varying backgrounds, with members born across the country, supporting those with lavish STEM-related ambitions and scarce resources. We welcome any and all opportunities and consider them the key to making use of untapped potential. Our current circumstances have allowed us to reach a wide range of people, sending support/humanitarian packages to those in need in times of disaster and spread awareness on proper implementation of healthcare in multiple countries.

**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.**

At CQ we uphold the continuity of our projects at instilling FIRST values as much as possible. Our Morgan magazine has reached over 13,000 people, providing readers with scientific news and information about the FIRST community. We annually hold STEM camps and Hackathons, with 46 participants and 372 contenders in the past years. We organize data through spreadsheets with numeric figures on events and their outcomes. Our projects influenced 14,167 people with further goals hoped to be achieved.

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

The FIRST vision traverses' mediocrity and guides bright minds to prosper through STEM and gracious professionalism. Our team raises an independent, wholly student-led team embracing innovative strategies, creativity and active, enthusiastic participation. Our goal is to conquer an era limited by past boundaries and help those with dreams attain what they have unfaltering desire to achieve. For every person we inspire, we take one more step to creating a more beautiful and promising future.

<b>What impact has your team seen from your efforts described in the above question? How does your team measure impact?</b>
Being a team inclusive for all students regardless of our differences allow us to come up with innovative ideas revolutionized our team functions and projects' efficacy in terms of impact created. We measure our team's impact by the people we could inspire and the effect that can be multiplied through its sustainability. Despite all obstacles we faced, we were able to discover new methods and via teamwork resolve any problems that our team encountered, while also having fun amongst all members.
<b>Please provide specific examples of how your team and team members act as role models within the <i>FIRST</i> community with emphasis on the past 3 years. How do you share these best practices with other teams?</b>
Our team upheld its courteous manner and posed as the role-model for the FIRST community through media and cooperation with various organizations. We hosted high-school students at our team's FRC-MUN event, educating them about FIRST values. We've gone on media including FIRST Türkiye Talks and local radios, giving interviews to National Newspapers about the FIRST community. We've also assisted both FLL and FRC juniors over the past years, guiding them on various aspects of the competition.
<b>Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other <i>FIRST</i> teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.</b>
Our team assisted over 3 FLL teams, educating them on areas where they needed guidance about the competition. We've actively engaged with them and provided all help possible whenever reached out. We've started the Learn With CQ program, teaching teams and participants skills required in the competition including mechanical/3D design, programming and media management. We've started 2 FLL teams, are mentoring 3 teams and are in the process of launching an FTC team for the next season.
<b>What other initiatives have you created, grown, sustained, or participated in (<i>FIRST</i> 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?</b>
Our team held the MORETHANAKID project which instituted various qualities to young stemmers on STEM and FIRST values. We've organized STEM camps and CQFLLEDU/CQINSPIRESFIRST initiatives in cooperation with professionals, thoroughly educating underprivileged children on STEM topics and teaching 3749 elementary students across 29 institutions about STEM and FIRST values respectively, leading to an increase in interest towards FIRST and STEM for young students and improving problem solving skills.
<b>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.</b>
Our team worked with the Health Ministry to launch GATS, a health consultation system that streamlines guidance for contacting necessary health institutions nationwide. We've cooperated with the Governor of our city in collaboration with ProsTATLI Hayat organization to bring awareness on cancer prevention and healthcare alongside more than 15,000 participants across 5 counties, making the headlines in 6 national newspapers 1,000,000 inspired readers across the nation.
<b>Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, <i>FIRST</i>, and your communities.</b>
Ideals unite us and diversity gives us strength. Everyone deserves equality in their opportunities and our team showed commitment to this through various methods. We've led various projects under the #GIRLSERA umbrella breaking through a patriarchal society and establishing an era with female leaders. Under our "DISABLE THE DISABILITIES" initiative we assisted the physically/mentally disabled through technological solutions aimed at overcoming the obstacles disabled people face in their lives.

<b>Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will be sustainable.</b>	
It's worth stating that our team members oftentimes graduate following their completion of sophomore year, to ensure a continuously developing environment. With this approach in mind, our team's senior members regularly train their juniors to prepare them as new leaders following graduation, and our comprehensive records of our past/present projects let us monitor their permanence/sustainability, allowing us to come up with new solutions should any predicament occur after our goals are achieved.	
<b>Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.</b>	
Inactivity and lack of action once left our team unmotivated, disrupting the operations of a formerly highly enthusiastic team. We've tackled this problem through our commitment to a refined, inclusive work culture, highly streamlined training programs and active participation for new members. We have created an intricate system that would guide junior members on leadership and sustainable continuation of the team's activities for upcoming generations, ensuring that our projects are everlasting.	
<b>Briefly describe other matters of interest to the <i>FIRST</i> 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.</b>	
We established a UNSDG program, gathering attention to all 17 sustainability goals of the United Nations. Our team creates people who can raise their voices in the face of global problems and directly approach challenges at hand, taking control and bringing true change to the ways in which the earth operates. We've advocated for vaccination with 5 teams from multiple countries and have played active roles in supplying humanitarian aid to 11+ provinces during disasters that occurred precedingly.	
<b>Judge Feedback</b>	
	<div><b>Is our FIRST Documentation Form filled correctly and did we miss anything?</b></div> <div><b>An area the team has an opportunity to improve.</b></div> <div><b>Something that really impressed the judges.</b></div>
<b>Essay</b>	
<p>Horses, with their glory ever entrancing since then, managed to sprinkle themselves into the realms of ancient mythology and still hold as the most fearless and resistant species in the world. Many believe that they were created out of sea foam by the god of the sea, Poseidon, symbolizing the powerful forces of nature and unity. Just like them, our team embodies the same traits they conveyed from the past as we're galloping toward the future. We thrive on making an impact beyond our runway by empowering others with passion and innovation. To step-by-step drive an environmental change, we leap over obstacles to shape a better place where we live, then in the end dive back into our roots, the wonders of water.</p> <p>To achieve that, we believe education serves as the foundation of this goal. Through our visits to primary schools, we support students who lack access to STEM materials by providing them with STEM kits we produced out of recycled plastics. KALEMDEN GELECEĞE extends this concept by providing educational resources to underserved communities, empowering students to realize their full potential. As part of this project, we provided educational materials to 64 students. Our goal is to introduce them to new opportunities in the world of STEM.</p> <p>Just as little drops of water cascade into vast, uncharted seas, each cultivated mind leads to a thousand enlightened</p>	

within society. Our team has emphasized the cruciality of inspiring young minds with STEM education through established STEM camps and our educational series STEMMERS and LEARNWITHCQ, programs designed to guide elementary and high school students through a curriculum covering diverse topics in programming and engineering. Like horses shaping the landscape as they run free, we explored the depths of engineering, instilling in students the wonders of what can be built through the fusion of STEAM, unveiling possibilities as boundless as the open seas.

Following these educational programs, we've set sail to MORE THAN A KID and CQ-HACKHATHON, STEM competitions for elementary and high school students respectively, catching the attention of hundreds of students from all around the Aegean region, enabling these children and teenagers to apply the skills they have acquired throughout our STEM camps and compete with people from different places.

Our team has embraced the FIRST mission and dedicated its efforts to advancing its initiative and values. Through CQFLLEDU and CQINSPIRESFIRST, we charted courses to 29 institutions across the Aegean, enlightening over 3749 students, parents and teachers on the importance of Gracious Professionalism, the FIRST mission, and its competitions. Students engage in indulging activities such as our CUNO games, designed to foster collaboration, logical reasoning, and teamwork, all while staying anchored to the core values of FIRST.

We've released our 2025 FRC Guide in 6 languages, serving as a deep dive for rookie teams in FIRST competitions, reaching over 300 readers across multiple teams. This guide equips them with skills and knowledge essential for competing while upholding FIRST's values and making the most of the experience. Additionally, we've launched our own Morgan Magazine, captivating readers with stories of FIRST and great figures in STEM history, inspiring 13749 regular readers worldwide and providing guidance for students, teams, and mentors as they navigate the world of STEM.

We mentored three award-winning FLL teams in Manisa, regularly communicating with them and supporting them against all obstacles while also providing consistent mentorship to their team members. Our team started the first hybrid FIRST&MUN competition called FRCMUN, extending FIRST's "more than a robot" ideal and harnessing students' skills in applied problem-solving for real-world challenges in STEM. We believe in making a lasting impact that inspires students to chase their ambitions and create new paths for the future.

Throughout our journey, we noticed an obstacle which was the persistent discrimination against women in technical fields. In response, our team supported the work fields of women in STEM through our GIRLSERA by teaching them mechanics and engineering while retaining our 50/50 gender ratio. We aspire to prove that girls can achieve anything, breaking down barriers and inspiring a new generation of female leaders in technology.

In the FIRST Türkiye Talks with the Fikret Yüksel Foundation, we emphasized the pivotal points of our team's ambitions for the year, debating on the projects we'll be conducting for the season and our aspirations for the future.

In this journey, we realized real progress is measured not only by innovation but by its accessibility. Just as horses navigate the most challenging terrains with persistent resolve, our commitment to inclusivity ensures that no individual is left behind. DISABLE THE DISABILITIES addresses the obstacles faced by individuals with disabilities, offering solutions that improve accessibility and enable much more participation in all aspects of life. Like translating kids' story books into the Braille alphabet, we encourage disabled individuals to embrace themselves and participate actively in other fields.

In addition to technological advancements, we recognize the essence of environmental and humanitarian efforts in creating a more livable society. QUIZ&FEED is committed to providing nourishment and care for stray dogs, reflecting our belief that kindness should extend to all living beings.

The health and well-being of individuals always remain at the core of our goals. CQCONNECT is one of the primary support apps we've been working on. This application brings attention to the public that needs support from team

members or team affiliates. We regularly assist those in need and have resolved 6 problems since our website launched.

Freshly out from the waters we emerged from, our hooves first touching the land to witness this man-shaped world's sights; we too realize the suffering Earth beneath us. Our legs continue to forge forward to refresh the planet's pulse and the once-running harmony through innovative technology. Surging forward with our ECOGUARDS initiative we developed a solar-powered fully autonomous self-sustainable vehicle, collected over 50 kilograms of toxic waste from the seas, separating them through our filtration system into distinct chambers and delivering them to authorities for reuse in various industries, reducing plastic waste which accounts for 80% of all water waste in the world.

Upon our visit to a local farm, we've taken the initiative to launch our FarmBOT which reshapes the application of agriculture through autonomous technology by using image processing to create a fully self-sustaining field, making it smoother than a horse ride in the blossoming open plains.

Diving headfirst into this challenge, we founded the CLEAN THE AREA project, introducing environmentally friendly alternatives to replace our daily-used products via a YouTube series, favoring solutions for nature's help calls to start from homes.

In our HYDRO-TRACK project, we aimed to observe marine ecosystem with the remotely operated hydro-roaming system, examining multiple anomalies present underwater, ranging from an investigation into invasive sea species to the balance of seawater such as the acidity and the livelihood conditions of the Mediterranean seas, gathering information on places that might require collateral action.

We strike on inspiring the next generation to ride along with us on this mission, and by hosting our visits to local schools, we guided the children along the path of sustainability. In classrooms filled with 127 future activists, we turn our CLIMATE HEROES project into reality, showing them how they're capable of healing the world and raising future heroes of the climate by providing them with education on the misery the earth is going through explanatory experiments. We ignite conversations on what's hidden below the surface and marine life threats through AQUA GUARDS prioritizing active engagement and interactivity while conducting these sessions, demonstrating to 114 students the significance of the amount of water they use beyond their awareness. We further demonstrate our aspirations by showcasing life-integrated sustainability activities and encouraging the children to participate in them. Hosting an art event done by transforming discarded waste into wonder with 108 students. TRASH TO TREASURE sheds light on a brand-new perspective on the beauty that can be reborn with what we throw away.

Reaching to conquer the current era where the tides shift for AI to ride the waves of knowledge, we continue to advance in harmony to make use of the accessible through our YouTube series CQ AI TALKS illuminating young minds on the world's precious underwater ecosystems. We mount on our resilient footing to make use of revolutionized technology. With the same mindset, under the name of the FILAMENTER project, we 3D-print the required filaments of our team from PET waste, fueling action with our tightened bonds with STEM values, galloping side by side.

In the end, just as the mythical horses return to the sea, we too find ourselves drawn back to the waters that first set us on this journey. The waves that once bore Poseidon's creation now carry the ripples of our impact—each project, each innovation, each voice joining the tide of change. We have galloped across classrooms and communities, leaving behind not just footprints but a legacy of sustainability and awareness. Yet, our journey does not end here. Like the never-ending rhythm of the ocean, we point our sails onward, yielding new ideas to savor the waters we return to from being not just a birthplace, but a future shimmering with life. For as long as the sea calls, we are ready to answer: not as wanderers, but as guardians of this only world we were meant to protect all along. ;

