* AU
* Teen Leadership Summit
* AYM/DAVSS
* RAN
* Veterans Pin
* Screen Salvagers
* Disco Sponsorships
* Pedal Power
* Scouts/Den Chief
* Lanier Outreaches
* ---Spring Spirit
* Taekwondo
* Worlds/comicpalooza volunteering
* Disco outreach
* IB Ambassador
* Champion Cubers
* ---Schoolhouse.world
* IOn prototyping Lab
* CSHS
* SERVICE ACTIVITIES
  + Advocacy and Awareness: The primary function is spreading awareness, campaigning, and/or lobbying about an issue.
    - Name
      * Autodesk University Industry Talk
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)
      * Autodesk University is a large, international engineering conference with thousands of CEOs, Businesses, Professionals, and influential people. I applied and was accepted to be a guest speaker in this conference to give my perspective as a student on how to advance the future of engineering education. I gave this presentation to spread awareness of upcoming shifts in the industry and to campaign for change in educational systems. My session was overfilled with industry professionals, educators, campaign directors, and corporate outreach managers.
    - Name
      * Teen Leadership Summit
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)
      * The West Houston Leadership Summit was a nominations-based invitational convention for local political leaders and students. I was nominated by my school administration to attend this powerful conference. Here I met with congressional representatives, state legislature members, commissioners, and other powerful individuals to share my concerns and visions for the future. In this way, I lobbied and raised awareness for engaging modern minds and promoting more developed, student-centered educational programmes for my peers and I. Additionally, I was able to directly discuss the need for future natural disaster response strategies with county leaders and national representatives.
    - Name
      * Arya Yuva Mandal & DAV Sanskriti School
    - Duration
      * 2+ years
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

Being a member and prefect of Arya Yuva Mandal (AYM) and DAV Sanskriti School reflects my commitment to community service and advocacy for cultural enrichment. At DAVSS, I immerse myself in Hindu traditions, ethics, language, and diverse skills, fostering a deeper understanding of our cultural heritage. AYM, the service branch of our school, extends our commitment beyond the classroom through initiatives like book drives, food distribution, and mentoring younger students.

My role within AYM involves spearheading campaigns aimed at raising awareness about pertinent issues within our community. One of our primary focuses has been advocating for the importance of cultural preservation and education. We've organized awareness drives within the school and local community, emphasizing the significance of preserving traditions and cultural values. Through targeted campaigns and lobbying efforts, we strive to garner support for programs that promote cultural awareness and education.

Furthermore, I play a pivotal role in coordinating educational programs that bridge generational gaps, ensuring that younger generations are well-versed in our traditions. By teaching and mentoring younger students, I aim to instill in them a sense of pride in our cultural identity and encourage them to become ambassadors of our heritage.

Through my involvement in AYM and DAV Sanskriti School, I am dedicated to advocating for the preservation of our cultural heritage while actively engaging in activities that spread awareness and education within our community.

* + - Name
      * Veterans puzzle pin
    - Duration
      * .5 - 1 year
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)
      * Future Engineers and the National Veterans’ Memorial & Museum hosted an engineering design challenge to commemorate United States Veterans. For this, I designed and 3D printed the Veterans’ Puzzle Pin (<https://www.futureengineers.org/weheartveterans2022/gallery/60862>).
      * Features a sliding puzzle revealing a heartfelt image representing the unwavering loyalty and steadfast sense of duty of our veterans.
      * This interactive puzzle allows the Veterans’ Puzzle Pin to not be just another disposable decoration, but a cherished gift. The veterans will appreciate the idea of this clever form to remember their selfless service, rather than another boring, motionless design. Any children, cousins, siblings, etc. of the veteran would also enjoy the fun puzzle and value the recognition of the sacrifice that their family has endured for their country.
      * Additionally, the thoughtful text around the Veterans' Puzzle Pin rim resounds with any veteran, reminding themselves, their family, and society, of the high standards of bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism that they have passionately committed to serving the nation.
      * In this way, I raised awareness for the issues and service of military veterans and those brave patriots' sacrifices. This design was mass-manufactured and distributed to veterans in attendance on Veterans Day 2023. My design was awarded with funding and prizes by both Future Engineers and the NVMM.
  + Fundraising and Collection Efforts: The primary function is fundraising or collecting goods for an organization or cause.
    - Name
      * Screen Salvagers
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

I founded Screen Salvagers out of a dual vision: to contribute to environmental sustainability and to provide valuable resources for education. Focused on polymethyl methacrylate, a common plastic used in COVID-19 protection barriers, screens, and general sheet material, our initiative aimed to collect, repurpose, and utilize this waste within the educational sphere. The project kicked off by recruiting both school staff and students, fostering a sense of communal responsibility towards our environment and the education system.

The collaborative effort of Screen Salvagers resulted in the collection of an impressive 400+ pounds (180+ kg) of polymethyl methacrylate waste from our school. This achievement underscores the sheer volume of plastic waste that can be repurposed with concerted efforts.

The collection process was not only stopped there, the recycled polymethyl methacrylate found a second life in structural robotics and engineering education applications within the school engineering department. This not only reduced our reliance on traditional materials but also provided an innovative and sustainable alternative for educational projects. Students were not only learning about robotics and engineering but were also gaining firsthand experience in the importance of recycling and repurposing materials for a more sustainable future.

* + - Name
      * Discobots Sponsorship Outreach
    - Duration

The DiscoBots are an international robotics team I am the captain of. We incorporate 100+ people across more than 5 schools to make world-level, industrial, competitive robots. We have a mission to spread robotics reduction without placing boundaries like lack of resources or admission fees.

To support such a large venture, our team relies on corporate sponsorships. For example, our team is currently sponsored by HAAG, Shell, Boeing, Texas Workforce Commision, ExxonMobil, and Bechtel.

I am frequently in charge of leading presentations, tours, and interviews with prospective and current sponsors in order to maintain team funding. These funds then lead to covering expensive robot parts, tools, and tournament fees. In this way, I collect crucial funds to support the DiscoBots’ mission of free, open, and resourceful robotics education.

* + - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)
    - Name
      * Pedal Power
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

I founded Pedal Power: a public stationary bicycle that allows anyone to pedal and convert mechanical energy into electricity, providing a dual benefit of exercise and device charging. The motivation behind this project was rooted in addressing two crucial aspects - promoting physical activity and fostering awareness about energy consumption.

To develop this invention and install it in my school, I needed a source of funding. When at first my school was unable to fund my project, I redesigned the mechanics and materials to be more cost-effective and seeked external funding for this community welfare project.

Eventually, I was able to compete for the Houston Resilience Design Challenge hosted by the National Wildlife Federation. I competed as a solo contestant amongst teams of large groups and environmental organizations. However, I was able to win their $750 prize to implement my project.

In this way, I successfully fundraised funds that enabled the initiation of the project. With my fundraising and product development, I was able to secure more resources to eventually finish and install the project in my school.

* + - Name
      * Robust Adaptive Network
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

The Robust Adaptive Network (RAN) is a patent-pending solution to the shortcomings of natural disaster response. RAN is a system of drones and rovers that provides essential cell signals, delivers urgent supplies, and relays important information during disasters. I've worked on this project with support from the Mayor of Houston, the Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, Ashoka, ION Houston, and more.

To be developing this novel, technological solution, I needed funding, resources, and connections. When I began, all I had was a 3D engineering CAD model. With this, I was able to win the Best Voted Idea award in the Taco Bell and Ashoka foundation’s Ambition Accelerator competition.

This allowed me numerous valuable industry connections and $1500 in seed funding. With this, I was able to approach the Mayor of Houston (my city of residence), and his office was able to offer me support in facilities, tooling, more connections, and an outlook of future funding after proven prototypes.

Now, I have an internship at the ION Prototyping Lab and partnerships with many other organizations to advance this life-saving invention.

Overall, I have obtained $2000 of cash and tens of thousands of dollars in facilities and equipment to continue my development of RAN.

* + Volunteer Service and Action: The primary function is teaching, building, serving, cooking, playing music, etc.
    - Name
      * Scouts/Den chief
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

One of my most significant accomplishments and notable contributions in the Boy Scouts of America was serving as a den chief for a Cub Scout pack. A den chief is a Boy Scout who assists a Cub Scout den leader and guides the younger scouts in their activities. As a den chief, I had the opportunity to mentor and inspire the Cub Scouts, teach them new skills, and help them advance in their ranks. I also participated in various events and outings with the pack, such as camping trips, service projects, and pinewood derby races.

Being a den chief was a rewarding and challenging experience for me. I learned how to communicate effectively with different age groups, how to plan and organize fun and educational activities, and how to handle conflicts and problems that arose among the Cub Scouts. I also developed a sense of responsibility and leadership, as I had to set a good example for the younger scouts and motivate them to achieve their goals. I enjoyed seeing the Cub Scouts grow and improve in their scouting journey, and I was proud to be a part of their success. One example of this was in the pinewood derby preparation and activities. In this, I used my passion for engineering to explain the science behind confirming or disproving the racecar myths.

* + - Name
      * Lamar IB Diploma Programme Ambassador
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

The Lamar IB Diploma Programme is the highest track of study offered at my school. Amongst our 4000 students, only a small portion study in this rigorous, globally-recognized path. From this small group of elite students, I was chosen to be an ambassador for the IB Diploma Programme.

Besides representing my school in various occasions, events, and meetings, Diploma Ambassadors are also in charge of guiding freshly-joined Diploma Candidates.

This guidance involves me conducting monthly classes to my assigned students, organizing events for diploma students, and assisting teachers in providing project feedback to students.

* + - Name
      * Lanier Middle School Debate and Robotics Outreach
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

I graduated from Lanier Middle School, but have been strongly connected even now. In Lanier, my main activities were Debate and Robotics, so even now I respect my roots and help grow those teams as a mentor

I regularly attend the main recruitment/training session of Lanier debate: their summer camp. Here, I have given about 50 volunteer hours over 3 years in assisting aspiring debaters to gain a competitive headstart.

I am also the head coach for Lanier’s robotics team. After their robotics teacher had to leave from his position, Ii decided to take the responsibility of maintaining the robotics team that sparked my interest in engineering. Till now, I regularly attend Their meetings and competitions to prepare those middle schoolers for great achievement.

* + - Name
      * Computer Science Honours Scoiety
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

I am an officer in my school’s Computer Science Honors Society. In this chapter, my main role involves teaching newer members, building solutions for my school and serving our school community.

As a senior student and an experienced programmer, I have a lot of knowledge to share with beginner and intermediate students. As part of being an interdisciplinary software engineer, I also bring my unique engineering skillsets to guide many of your members’ projects.

As a CSHS officer, I am also responsible for helping create solutions for our school’s needs. My teams and I have set up servers, made automated plant watering systems, solved teacher needs, and pursued inter-subject interactions.

Additionally, to maintain my membership in CSHS, I am required to maintain 12 volunteer hours per semester serving the chapter and community. In this way, I spend time helping both within the CSHS and in the general school community.

* + Service and Education Programs: Conducting service as part of an academic experience or program, including mission trips, service-learning courses, tuition-based experiences, etc.
    - Name
      * Competition Volunteering
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

I am well known in local and international communities as a regular volunteer for many competitions. These range from small local theater events to international robotics championships. I volunteer at these competitions because as a competitive student, I have been deeply thankful for all the tournaments and competitions I have been able to participate in. Amongst all these events, not one of them ran without volunteers. I recognize that my accolades, skills, and experiences were built upon the gracious selflessness of other volunteers. From this, I have a deep calling to continue their prosperous impacts. In this way, I have likewise contributed my time to volunteer in various competitions to ensure that any other students will have the opportunity of smooth, fair, constructive competitions that provide them with lifelong skills, experiences, and memories, just like the volunteers before contributed to me.

In this way, I have held high positions like head referee or inspection manager through many years of consistent service. In this way, I have accumulated more than 80 volunteer hours dedicated just to making sure others can have the same opportunities of competition as me.

* + - Name
      * Taekwondo Jyokyonim
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

After becoming a first-degree black belt in my Taekwondo school, I was offered the position to be Jyokyonim (Junior Instructor). In this position, I have been able to mentor and train a group of 10+ competitors to develop them into higher-scoring students.

One of the most rewarding experiences as a junior instructor was mentoring a struggling student named Yash. He had difficulty with his taekwondo forms and lacked confidence. I observed his performance and devised a creative teaching exercise. I encouraged him to punch a foam helmet out of my hands, which unlocked a new excitement and power in him. He was able to apply this energy and focus to his forms, and his performance improved significantly after this exercise. He also became more confident and enthusiastic about taekwondo.

I am proud to be a black belt and serve my Dojang as an instructor. My students have grown under my mentorship, and I notice that I too have grown from this position.

* + - Name
      * Discobots Outreach programmes
    - Duration
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

The DiscoBots are an international robotics team I am the captain of. We incorporate 100+ people across more than 5 schools to make world-level, industrial, competitive robots. We have a mission to spread robotics reduction without placing boundaries like lack of resources or admission fees.

In addition to this, we also aim to spread our vision of accessible robotics education to our younger community. To do this, we visit local middle schools, entry-level robotics teams, and other local organizations to give insightful presentations, extend team invitations, and inspire younger students to continue an education in STEM.

On behalf of the DiscoBots, I have reached over 900 students from our middle school outreach programmes.

Additionally, my team and I host various camps, video tutorials, virtual meetings, and practical lessons sessions that give unique young students the opportunity of advanced competition and training.

* + - Name
      * Champion Cubers
    - Duration
      * 2+
    - Briefly describe the activity and your specific role in this activity. (250 words max)

Champion Cubers is an organization I created to teach kids how to speedcube. I teach to speedcube through a unique and comprehensive curriculum and a syllabus that covers various types of puzzles, from the classic 3x3x3 cube up to the 6x6x6 and to the more complex pyraminx and megaminx. My curriculum is based on the understanding of spatial thinking and mathematical concepts, not just rote memorization. I also teach students the World Cubing Association rules and guidelines for official practice and competition. My curriculum has helped many children learn how to speedcube, some of whom solved the entire 3x3x3 cube within four hours.

My role is as the president of Champion Cubers, and the lead tutor. I have to handle administrative tasks, advertisement, and fundraising. Additionally, I commit to one class a week in teaching my students new levels of this brain-building puzzle.

* SERVICE PROJECTS In this section, you have the opportunity to identify and expand on two of your most significant individual service projects or experiences which you led, organized, or provided a primary contribution. You may choose to describe a service project from an activity that you listed in the previous sections. This section is meant to share and highlight your personal commitment, active role & participation in the project or experience, and the impact that it had on those whom you served.
  + Name
    - Pedal Power
  + Describe the project and service impact (500 words max)

Engaging in the Pedal Power service project has been a transformative experience, as it embodies my commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement, and innovative solutions. This initiative, funded by the National Wildlife Federation, not only successfully harnessed human energy for a practical purpose but also created a tangible impact on my school community.

The concept of Pedal Power is simple yet powerful: a public stationary bicycle that allows anyone to pedal and convert mechanical energy into electricity, providing a dual benefit of exercise and device charging. The motivation behind this project was rooted in addressing two crucial aspects - promoting physical activity and fostering awareness about energy consumption.

Securing funding from the National Wildlife Federation was a critical milestone that enabled the realization of Pedal Power. With the support received, I was able to acquire the necessary materials to create the machine. After one and a half years of consistent prototyping, the successful completion of the project marked the beginning of its installation within the school premises.

The impact of Pedal Power has been multi-faceted. Firstly, it has become a hub for physical activity within the school community. Students are not only exercising but also learning about the relationship between physical effort and energy production. The initiative has garnered significant attention, with a steady stream of students eager to contribute their pedal power to charge their devices.

Moreover, Pedal Power serves as an educational tool, fostering a deeper understanding of electricity usage and wastage. As students actively engage in the pedaling process, they gain firsthand experience in energy production, encouraging a more mindful approach to power consumption. The project sparks conversations about sustainable practices, promoting a culture of awareness regarding the environmental impact of energy choices.

Additionally, Pedal Power acts as a catalyst for discussions on off-grid power solutions. By witnessing the direct connection between their physical effort and the generation of electricity, students are inspired to explore alternative energy sources and understand the importance of reducing dependence on traditional power grids. This is especially important for my community since we live in a disaster-prone region.

In conclusion, the Pedal Power service project has not only provided a unique and accessible means of exercise and device charging but has also fostered a sense of environmental consciousness within my school community. This initiative, made possible through the support of the National Wildlife Federation, has left a lasting impact on the way students perceive and engage with energy. As we continue to pedal towards a sustainable future, Pedal Power stands as a testament to the potential of innovative solutions in creating positive change.

* + Total hours spent on project
    - 80
  + Duration of involvement
    - 1-2 yers
  + Name
    - Screen Salvagers
  + Describe the project and service impact (500 words max)

In the ever-evolving landscape of environmental challenges, the need for innovative solutions has never been more critical. The Screen Salvagers service project, an initiative I founded, stands as a testament to the power of grassroots movements in addressing both environmental concerns and educational needs.

Screen Salvagers was born out of a dual vision: to contribute to environmental sustainability and to provide valuable resources for education. Focused on polymethyl methacrylate, a common plastic used in COVID-19 protection barriers, screens, and general sheet material, our initiative aimed to collect, repurpose, and utilize this waste within the educational sphere. The project kicked off by recruiting both school staff and students, fostering a sense of communal responsibility towards our environment and the education system.

The collaborative effort of Screen Salvagers resulted in the collection of an impressive 400+ pounds (180+ kg) of polymethyl methacrylate waste from our school. This achievement not only reflects the dedication of those involved but also underscores the sheer volume of plastic waste that can be repurposed with concerted efforts. The collection process was not merely about waste disposal; it became a tangible expression of the positive change that can be brought about when a community unites with a shared purpose.

The impact of Screen Salvagers extended far beyond waste collection. The recycled polymethyl methacrylate found a second life in structural robotics and engineering education applications within the school. This not only reduced our reliance on traditional materials but also provided an innovative and sustainable alternative for educational projects. Students were not only learning about robotics and engineering but were also gaining firsthand experience in the importance of recycling and repurposing materials for a more sustainable future.

Moreover, Screen Salvagers instilled a sense of environmental consciousness in the school community. The initiative served as a catalyst for conversations about waste reduction, responsible consumption, and the potential for collective action. It became a model for how individuals, even within a confined space like a school, can contribute meaningfully to environmental preservation.

In conclusion, Screen Salvagers is not merely a waste collection project; it is a beacon of change, symbolizing the harmonious intersection of environmental sustainability and education. The initiative not only salvaged plastic waste but also salvaged the potential for a more enlightened and responsible future generation. Screen Salvagers is a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives in fostering positive change, and its impact reverberates not only in the tangible reduction of plastic waste but also in the minds and hearts of those who participated.

* + Total hours spent on project
    - 25
  + Duration of involvement
    - 5 mo - yr
* WORK/UNPAID INTERNSHIP EXPEREINCE
  + Employer Name
    - Ion Prototyping Lab
  + Position
    - Intern & CNC Specialist
  + Start Date
    - June 2023
  + End Date
  + Average Hours per week
    - 4
  + Employer Name
    - Steps For Dancing
  + Position
    - Web Developer/Designer
  + Start Date
    - July 2020
  + End Date
  + Average Hours per week
    - 2
  + Employer Name
    - Champion Cubers
  + Position
    - Founder
  + Start Date
    - July 2021
  + End Date
  + Average Hours per week
    - 1.5
* SCHOOL LEADERSHIP Share up to three unique leadership positions that you have held within your school community.
  + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - DiscoBots Robotics Teams
  + Please select the position held
    - Team Captain
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

As the Team Captain of the DiscoBots Robotics Teams, my journey has been defined by a relentless pursuit of excellence, innovation, and community engagement. Leading a diverse group of over 100 members across five schools, I spearheaded initiatives that culminated in a series of remarkable accomplishments, both in robot design and community outreach.

One of the most striking achievements during my tenure was overseeing the creation of 12 industrial-level robots that showcased our team's ingenuity and technical prowess. Through meticulous planning, collaboration, and effective leadership, we transformed concepts into tangible, internationally recognized robots. These robots weren't merely machines; they were manifestations of our team's dedication, expertise, and passion for robotics.

Our commitment to excellence reflected in our consistent success at competitions. We etched our name in team history by securing the most awards each season, amassing an impressive collection of over 19 trophies in just two years. These accolades weren't just symbols of victory; they represented the culmination of countless hours of hard work, iterative design processes, and unwavering determination.

However, our impact extended beyond the competitive arena. Recognizing the importance of community outreach, we initiated several programs under the DiscoBots umbrella. "Disco Distance," a series of beginner-level YouTube tutorials, aimed to democratize robotics education and empower aspiring enthusiasts worldwide. Moreover, our visits to local middle schools served as a platform to inspire the next generation of innovators, igniting their interest in STEM and robotics through interactive sessions and demonstrations.

Our commitment to fostering interest in STEM education was further evident in our free STEM summer camps, where we provided hands-on learning experiences to students from diverse backgrounds. These camps weren't just about teaching robotics; they were about instilling a passion for problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Additionally, our involvement in volunteering at prestigious tournament events such as Robotica, FIRST, and VEX World Championships underscored our dedication to the wider robotics community. Through these volunteer efforts, we not only contributed to the smooth execution of these events but also embodied the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie inherent in the robotics community.

In essence, my role as the Team Captain of the DiscoBots Robotics Teams went beyond mastering the technical aspects of robot construction. It encompassed a commitment to nurturing talent, fostering inclusivity, and making meaningful contributions to society. These experiences have not only shaped my understanding of leadership but have also reinforced my belief in the transformative power of robotics education and community engagement.

* + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - Lamar Competition Debate Team
  + Please select the position held
    - Founder/President
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

I am a founder of my school’s Competition Debate Team which is registered with the National Speech and Debate Association, Texas Forensic Association, University Interscholastic League, and Houston Urban Debate League. I chose to create/found this local chapter because I have a passion for debating and I wanted to share it with other students who might not have the opportunity to participate in this activity otherwise.

I re-founded the Competition Debate Team at my school after it had been dissolved due to administrative changes. From then till now, I handle team paperwork, tournament sign-ups, funds, practices, and mentoring. I have also qualified for and performed well in local, state, national, and university-level competitions. For example, I am the 2nd-ranked Extemporaneous Speaker in NSDA Texas, I qualified to the national championships in each of my years of competition, and won first place in multiple events multiple times.

My motivation to re-found this team stemmed from a deep-seated passion for debate and its multifaceted benefits. To me, debate transcends the mere exchange of arguments; it instills invaluable life skills. It cultivates the ability to think critically, research comprehensively, and communicate persuasively. Debate is a trifecta essential for success not only in academics but also in professional and personal realms.

Establishing a local chapter allowed me to foster a community of like-minded individuals passionate about rhetoric and discourse. I wanted to create a space where students could channel their enthusiasm for debate into a structured and supportive environment. Through regular meetings, practice sessions, and participation in tournaments facilitated by these associations, I aimed to offer a platform where students could flourish intellectually and personally.

Moreover, founding a chapter presented an opportunity to extend the reach of our school's debate team beyond the confines of our campus. It allowed us to participate in regional, state, and national-level competitions, exposing students to diverse perspectives and enhancing their competitive spirit.

Witnessing the growth and evolution of our debate team has been immensely gratifying. Students have not only sharpened their communication skills but have also developed a sense of camaraderie and resilience. The impact extends beyond wins and accolades; it lies in the newfound confidence and intellectual agility us students gain, preparing us for the challenges they'll face beyond the classroom.

Ultimately, the decision to re-establish the Competition Debate Team was rooted in a desire to empower students with a platform to voice their opinions cogently and cultivate a lifelong love for critical thinking. It's been a privilege to witness the team's resurgence and the profound personal growth of each member.

By founding this chapter, I aimed to sow the seeds for a culture that cherishes dialogue, values diverse perspectives, and fosters the growth of future leaders who can eloquently advocate for change and progress.

* + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - Lamar Texans Theatre Company
  + Please select the position held
    - Troupe Officer & Varsity Play Productions Actor
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

As an officer and a varsity actor of the Lamar Texans Theatre Company, I have had the privilege of being involved in various aspects of theatre production, from acting to directing to technical work. I have also had the opportunity to showcase my talents at local, state, and international levels, as well as to contribute to the growth and success of our troupe. In this essay, I will describe some of my most significant accomplishments and notable contributions in the Lamar Texans Theatre Company.

One of my proudest achievements was receiving a Superior rating in the Texans' thespian festival in 2022, which qualified me for the international thespian competition in 2023. I spent months preparing for this performance, studying the script, the character, and the authorial context of the play. I also worked closely with my director and fellow actors to refine my delivery, expression, and movement. I was thrilled to receive positive feedback from the judges, who praised my interpretation, emotion, and stage presence. I also felt honored to qualify in representing our troupe at the international level.

Another highlight of my theatre experience was being involved in four major productions as a lead, sub-lead, and technical roles. Some of my notable roles were Sanger Rainsforf from “The Most Dangerous Game” or Harry Potter from “Puffs”. These roles challenged me to develop my acting skills, such as vocal projection, diction, accent, characterization, and improvisation. I also learned how to collaborate with other actors, directors, and crew members, as well as how to handle pressure, criticism, and feedback. In addition, I participated in the technical aspects of theatre production, such as lighting, sound, set design, and costume design. I gained valuable knowledge and skills in these areas, as well as a deeper appreciation for the work that goes behind the scenes of a theatre show.

Furthermore, I made significant contributions to the Lamar Texans Theatre Company as an officer and a leader. I was inducted into the International Thespian Honour Society in 2022, which recognized my academic excellence and theatre involvement. I also took on the responsibility of project-managing various activities and events for our troupe, such as fundraisers, workshops, guest speakers, and community service. I organized schedules, and volunteers, as well as communicated with donors, and partners to manage our team’ projects. I also mentored and supported some new actors, offering them advice, feedback, and encouragement. I aimed to create a positive and inclusive environment for our troupe, where everyone felt welcome, valued, and inspired.

In conclusion, I am proud of my accomplishments and contributions in the Lamar Texans Theatre Company as an officer and a varsity actor. I believe that theatre has enriched my life in many ways, such as enhancing my creativity, confidence, communication, and collaboration skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my passion for theatre and to share it with others.

* NON SCHOOL LEADERSHIP Share up to three unique leadership positions that you have held outside school setting.
  + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - Houston Center for Taekwondo
  + Please select the position held
    - First Degree Black Belt and Jyokyonim (Junior Instructor)
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

Houston Center for Taekwondo has been a pivotal part of my personal and professional development. As a First Degree Black Belt and Jyokyonim (Junior Instructor), I have achieved significant accomplishments and made notable contributions to the center and its students.

One of my proudest moments was winning a Gold Medal in the International Open Taekanagwon Poomsae Championships. Poomsae is an integral part of traditional Taekwondo instruction. In this olympic sport, competitors are tested of their balance, power, timing, weapons handling and combat technique. I was able to compete and win first place in one of my international competitions.

Another milestone in my taekwondo journey was becoming a junior instructor. My master offered me this unique opportunity over my peers, recognizing my technical expertise and leadership potential. I eagerly accepted, excited to pass on the knowledge and experiences I had gained under his guidance. I learned how to teach and motivate students of different ages and levels, as well as how to manage a class and handle various situations.

One of the most rewarding experiences as a junior instructor was mentoring a struggling student named Yash. He had difficulty with his taekwondo forms and lacked confidence. I observed his performance and devised a creative teaching exercise. I encouraged him to punch a foam helmet out of my hands, which unlocked a new excitement and power in him. He was able to apply this energy and focus to his forms, and his performance improved significantly after this exercise. He also became more confident and enthusiastic about taekwondo.

My mentoring and leadership opportunities have shaped me into an interpersonal leader who can inspire my peers and myself to tackle extraordinary challenges together. I have applied these skills in other activities such as Debate, Robotics, and Projects, where I have shared my knowledge and skills with others. I have also learned how to communicate effectively, collaborate productively, and mentor constructively.

Houston Center for Taekwondo has been more than just a place to learn martial arts. It has been a place to grow, learn, and contribute. As a First Degree Black Belt and Jyokyonim, I have achieved remarkable results and made positive impacts on the center and its students.

* + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - Boy Scouts of America
  + Please select the position held
    - Den Chief, Patrol Lead
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

One of my most significant accomplishments and notable contributions in the Boy Scouts of America was serving as a den chief for a Cub Scout pack. A den chief is a Boy Scout who assists a Cub Scout den leader and guides the younger scouts in their activities. As a den chief, I had the opportunity to mentor and inspire the Cub Scouts, teach them new skills, and help them advance in their ranks. I also participated in various events and outings with the pack, such as camping trips, service projects, and pinewood derby races.

Being a den chief was a rewarding and challenging experience for me. I learned how to communicate effectively with different age groups, how to plan and organize fun and educational activities, and how to handle conflicts and problems that arose among the Cub Scouts. I also developed a sense of responsibility and leadership, as I had to set a good example for the younger scouts and motivate them to achieve their goals. I enjoyed seeing the Cub Scouts grow and improve in their scouting journey, and I was proud to be a part of their success. One example of this was in the pinewood derby preparation and activities. In this, I used my passion for engineering to explain the science behind confirming or disproving the racecar myths.

Another important accomplishment and contribution I made in the Boy Scouts of America was being a patrol leader for my troop. A patrol leader is a Boy Scout who leads a small group of scouts within the troop and is responsible for that group’s tasks. As a patrol leader, I was in charge of planning and conducting patrol meetings, organizing and delegating tasks for patrol activities, and ensuring the welfare and safety of my patrol members. I also collaborated with other patrol leaders and the senior patrol leader to make decisions and plans for the troop.

Being a patrol leader was a valuable and enriching experience for me. I gained a lot of skills and knowledge in various aspects of scouting, such as camping, hiking, first aid, citizenship, and merit badges. I also improved my leadership and teamwork abilities, as I had to work with different personalities and backgrounds, resolve conflicts and issues, and provide feedback and guidance to my patrol members. I appreciated the camaraderie and friendship I formed with my patrol and the rest of the troop, and I was honored to serve and lead them.

* + Leadership Position Organization Name
    - Champion Cubers
  + Please select the position held
    - Founder/President
  + List your most significant accomplishments and/or notable contribution(s) during your time in this role. (500 words max)

I have always been fascinated by speedcubing, the art of solving Rubik's cubes and other puzzles as fast as possible. When I was nine years old, I received a Rubik's cube as a gift and spent months trying to figure it out. After learning how to solve it online, I became hooked on improving my skills and learning new methods. However, I soon realized that finding reliable and effective resources for speedcubing was not easy. There were many websites and videos that were full of ads, scams, incomplete, or incorrect information. I wished there was a better way to learn and practice speedcubing, and that is why I founded Champion Cubers.

Champion Cubers is an academy that teaches kids how to speedcube through a unique and comprehensive curriculum. I have developed a syllabus that covers various types of puzzles, from the classic 3x3x3 cube up to the 6x6x6 and to the more complex pyraminx and megaminx. My curriculum is based on the understanding of spatial thinking and mathematical concepts, not just rote memorization. I also teach students the World Cubing Association rules and guidelines for official practice and competition. My curriculum has helped many children learn how to speedcube, some of whom solved the entire 3x3x3 cube within four hours.

Champion Cubers also provides high-quality resources and hardware for speedcubing students. I equip each student with top-notch resources such as simulators, custom reference material, and videos to boost their performance from learning and practice. I also supply them with the best hardware available, such as speedcubes, timers, and mats. These resources and hardware have helped my students improve their times and understanding of the puzzles, making them ready for anything from talent-shows to tournaments.

Champion Cubers also promotes speedcubing as a fun and beneficial activity for all ages. I advocate for speedcubing as a hobby that can develop real-world thinking skills, such as problem-solving, logic, memory, and concentration. I also demonstrate how speedcubing can be a source of entertainment, creativity, and confidence. I reach out to various audiences, such as schools, libraries, and media outlets, to spread the word about speedcubing and its benefits. I also create a website and a social media presence for Champion Cubers, where I share news, updates, and tips about speedcubing.

Teaching in my community through passion, creative methods and real-world application, along with many other elements like community camps and extensive resources are some of the accomplishments and contributions that I have made as the founder of Champion Cubers. I hope to continue my passion for speedcubing and inspire more people to join this amazing community.

* ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP
  + Are you a founder/Cofounder of a local or state chapter of a national organization. Provide a brief a description of the organization and explain why you chose to create/found a local/state chapter. (500 words max)

I am a founder of my school’s Competition Debate Team which is registered with the National Speech and Debate Association, Texas Forensic Association, University Interscholastic League, and Houston Urban Debate League. I chose to create/found this local chapter because I have a passion for debating and I wanted to share it with other students who might not have the opportunity to participate in this activity otherwise.

I re-founded the Competition Debate Team at my school after it had been dissolved due to administrative changes. From then till now, I handle team paperwork, tournament sign-ups, funds, practices, and mentoring. I have also qualified for and performed well in local, state, national, and university-level competitions. For example, I am the 2nd-ranked Extemporaneous Speaker in NSDA Texas, I qualified to the national championships in each of my years of competition, and won first place in multiple events multiple times.

My motivation to re-found this team stemmed from a deep-seated passion for debate and its multifaceted benefits. To me, debate transcends the mere exchange of arguments; it instills invaluable life skills. It cultivates the ability to think critically, research comprehensively, and communicate persuasively. Debate is a trifecta essential for success not only in academics but also in professional and personal realms.

Establishing a local chapter allowed me to foster a community of like-minded individuals passionate about rhetoric and discourse. I wanted to create a space where students could channel their enthusiasm for debate into a structured and supportive environment. Through regular meetings, practice sessions, and participation in tournaments facilitated by these associations, I aimed to offer a platform where students could flourish intellectually and personally.

Moreover, founding a chapter presented an opportunity to extend the reach of our school's debate team beyond the confines of our campus. It allowed us to participate in regional, state, and national-level competitions, exposing students to diverse perspectives and enhancing their competitive spirit.

Witnessing the growth and evolution of our debate team has been immensely gratifying. Students have not only sharpened their communication skills but have also developed a sense of camaraderie and resilience. The impact extends beyond wins and accolades; it lies in the newfound confidence and intellectual agility us students gain, preparing us for the challenges they'll face beyond the classroom.

Ultimately, the decision to re-establish the Competition Debate Team was rooted in a desire to empower students with a platform to voice their opinions cogently and cultivate a lifelong love for critical thinking. It's been a privilege to witness the team's resurgence and the profound personal growth of each member.

By founding this chapter, I aimed to sow the seeds for a culture that cherishes dialogue, values diverse perspectives, and fosters the growth of future leaders who can eloquently advocate for change and progress.

* + Are you the founder of a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization? This is a unique, independent organization that is not part of a larger organization or existing program. Describe the organization's purpose, its mission, major projects or accomplishments, and the population/communities served. You may include the organization's URL, if applicable. \* (500 words max)

My family and friends have endured the Mumbai Floods, Turkey Earthquakes, Hurricane Harvey, and Winter Storm Uri. These events left a profound impact on my outlooks and initiatives.

Living through the floods, storms, winds, ice, and debris was an ever-present sense of impending doom. It was scary knowing if there was some emergency, we had no means of calling for help. It was dreadful knowing that as our supplies dwindled, there were no shops to stock up essentials.

This recognition of the unresolved challenges society faces in dealing with natural disasters led me to inventing the Robust Adaptive Network (RAN). RAN is a system of drones and rovers that provides essential cell signals, delivers urgent supplies, and relays important information during disasters. I've worked on this project with support from the Mayor of Houston, the Taco Bell Foundation, DiscoBots, Ashoka, ION Houston, and more.

I founded the Robust Adaptive Network (RAN) Development Organization. Not only do we develop the RAN as inventors, we also serve as an educational bed for students to learn key STEM skills through RAN’s prototyping and development.

In terms of education, RAN has provided itself as an open-door opportunity for anyone to learn integral STEM skills through RAN’s own development. This means that while RAN is being developed, others are free to participate/replicate its design process while developing their own knowledge by learning from the ground-up implementation of this robotic system. Many local students have taken this opportunity to learn various skills like 3D Printing, CNC Laser Cutting, or CAD design through RAN.

Additionally, RAN has made significant impacts in the sectors of advocacy and community awareness around natural disasters. One example of this is RAN’s partnership with the local government. RAN has partnered with the Mayor of Houston to propel the goal of advancing natural disaster response technologies. Through this RAN-Houston partnership, the Houston government has agreed to lend significant prototyping and mentorship opportunities to RAN’s aforementioned educational goals, as well as developing better natural disaster response solutions. Along with this governmental advocacy, RAN is also a notable player in its community, continuously striving for positive change. One example of this is RAN’s wide community involvement. RAN’s growing network of aforementioned organizational involvement impacts the community by bringing awareness to the key issue of disaster response, aids in RAN’s educational, technological, and advocacy goals, as well as supporting the future developments of RAN.

* ESSAY: Which pillar of National Honor Society **[scholarship, service, leadership, character]**  resonates most with you and why? In your essay, you should discuss your personal experiences, core values, and/or philosophy that have shaped your commitment to this pillar. You should also explain how this pillar has influenced your academic, extracurricular, and personal life. We encourage you to highlight your personality, uniqueness, creativity, and individuality in your essay. (1000 Words mAx)

**The metaphor of steel's magnetic properties deeply resonates with my understanding of leadership dynamics. Just as a piece of steel possesses dormant magnetic domains in scattered directions, team members hold unique talents, perspectives, and inclinations. When subjected to an external magnetic field—a leader's guidance and influence—these scattered domains align, creating a potent, amplified magnetic force. A leader's role goes beyond shaping the overall outcome; it involves influencing individuals within the team, aligning their efforts toward a collective goal. Successful leadership doesn't just amplify the magnetic field; it harmonizes the magnetic domains within, magnifying the team's collective potential and achieving a stronger, unified result. The innate ability of leadership to bestow gifts upon organizations, its profound influence on shaping outcomes, and the scarcity of effective leadership in the real world are why this pillar of NHS resonates most profoundly within me.**

**My belief in leadership is rooted in the understanding that it's a solemn act of service, a gift rather than a pedestal for personal glorification. Leadership transcends conventional notions of hierarchy and authoritative directives. It's the ability to serve the team, fostering an environment where collective goals resonate, and where trust and influence wield more power than mere titles or assigned tasks.**

**True leadership isn't synonymous with being at the helm or commanding others. It's about garnering trust, shaping perceptions, and guiding individuals toward a shared purpose. It's not the authority vested in a position but the ability to inspire, influence, and gain the collective commitment of a team toward a common aspiration. Through my journey as a local leader, I've undergone significant growth, understanding that the acquisition of trust, influence, respect, and perceived power doesn't confer entitlement but instead demands responsible stewardship.**

**In addition to my philosophy of leadership being a cherished gift for a community rather than the position of a herding dog, I recognize that following this path of leadership can have significant real-world impacts. When analyzing big corporate rivals like Apple and Google, Ford and GM, a peculiar phenomenon unfurls—these companies are almost the same in terms of funds, structure, and law. It’s the leaders at the helm that are guiding the luminaries who wield not just power but vision, conviction, and the elusive art of inspiration. The company’s divergences are due to the enigmatic personas steering their course through leadership. These companies’ differences come from leadership that sparks revolutions within organizations, birthing innovations that reverberate across continents, altering the very fabric of societies they touch.**

**In essence, one of the top factors of ‘getting things done’ in the real world happens not through money, connections, or history but through leadership. This granted power of action to leaders, from my experience, does not stem from genius, visionary ideas, decades of experience, nor a gripping presence over others. Rather, it is that leader who finds the geniuses, the visionaries, the strongmen, and the ‘doers’ to manage the project. This is contrary to traditional models of leadership where the most intelligent or the most experienced becomes the default captain.**

**The size of these large tasks that leaders can scale is boundless. It takes leaders to solve anything from small civil disputes up to corporate pivots and global crises. Yet, the world is currently facing a steep lack of true leaders and proper leadership. The Harvard Business Review says that "true leaders are forged in crisis.” The current global landscape is inundated with multifarious crises. Despite the existential threat of climate change, the widening chasm of inequality, the unabated proliferation of pollutants, or the pervasive issue of corporate gouging, world leaders, business magnates, executives, and policymakers falter in delivering the decisive, visionary leadership required to combat these pervasive dilemmas. The lack of leaders willing to embrace the mantle of change, to transcend conventional paradigms, and to inspire collective action is palpable is leaving a void in the realms where leadership is most urgently required.**

**This scarcity isn't merely a vacuum of figures holding prestigious titles; it's a shortfall of genuine leaders willing to transcend personal agendas and navigate turbulent waters for the greater good. It's this scarcity of authentic leadership, the shortage of leaders capable of catalyzing transformative change, that underscores the urgency of nurturing and cherishing the ethos of leadership as a core value. For me, this scarcity isn't just an observation; it's a call to action, a motivation to embody and champion the principles of impactful leadership in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.**

**All in all, leadership, to me, epitomizes the art of service, the conscientious understanding of power's responsibilities, and an urgent call to mend the gaping void in our world's leadership echelons. This holistic perspective encapsulates my approach towards embodying and nurturing the essence of leadership as a core value. I am steadfast in my belief that leadership isn't just a role or a title; it's a profound gift—a calling to serve the collective aspirations of a team. Understanding the weighty implications of influence and power, I endeavor to wield these tools responsibly, cognizant of their potential impact on individuals and communities. The gaping deficit of genuine leadership in today's world serves as both a challenge and a beckoning call. It's a summons to step up, to infuse every facet of my life—be it my community welfare projects, competition teams, National Honors Society, or community interactions—with the ethos of impactful leadership. In these arenas, I've witnessed the transformative power of leadership, both in shaping me and inspiring others, fostering a reciprocal relationship of growth and empowerment.**

**Continuing on this trajectory, I aspire to refine my leadership skills continually, honing the art of influence, guidance, and collective inspiration. Much like the small electromagnet aligning the domains within a swath of steel, I aim to amplify the forces of teamwork, accomplishment, and solution-driven approaches. By nurturing this vision of leadership, I envision a world where each individual's potential is harnessed, collective aspirations are fueled, and impactful change becomes an achievable reality.**

* RECOMMENDATION
  + Please rate the applicant’s commitment to and demonstration of Character. This may include your professional observations of the applicant’s interactions with their peers and faculty, and interactions with the school and local community. \*

**Soumil has shown remarkable character traits that make him a deserving candidate for this scholarship. Some of the character traits that Soumil has displayed are:**

**Courage: Soumil has the courage to tackle big challenges and learn new skills. He was not intimidated by the industrial-level publications that I was working on, but rather embraced them as opportunities to grow and contribute. He was always eager to take on new tasks and responsibilities, even if they were outside his comfort zone or expertise.**

**Perseverance: Soumil has the perseverance to overcome obstacles and difficulties. He never had a pessimistic outlook on the projects that we were working on, even when we faced countless unforeseen problems and setbacks. There was even a time when he had to almost redo all his work from a trivial external problem, but he always found ways to solve the issues and improve the quality of the work. He was always optimistic and resilient in the face of adversity.**

**Respect: Soumil has the respect for himself and others. He was always polite and courteous in his communications, whether it was through emails, phone or meetings. He was always attentive and responsive to the feedback and suggestions that I gave him.**

**Integrity: Soumil has the integrity to be honest and ethical. He always followed the rules and standards of the publications that we were working on. He never misrepresented any information or data.**

**Soumil is a person of exceptional character who has impressed me with his skills, abilities, and personality. He is a valuable asset to any organization or institution that he joins.**

* + Rate the applicant's concern for and personal commitment to the school and/or local community. \*

**He has excelled in various fields and activities in his school and has contributed to the well-being and development of his communities. Some of school contributions are:**

**Robotics: Soumil is a passionate and talented robotics enthusiast who has participated and won in several robotics competitions at the regional, national, and international levels. He is the captain of his school’s VEX Robotics team that qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship. He also led his school’s FIRST Robotics team that won the FIRST District Engineering Inspiration Award.**

**Projects: He has also created some community-benefitting projects/initiatives. One of his notable ones was ‘pedal power’ where he used human pedaling on a bicycle to generate electricity that charged students’ phones/laptops to spread an appreciation for electricity usage.**

**Debate: Soumil is a skilled and eloquent debater who has represented his school in various debate tournaments and events. He is the president of his school’s debate team. He also qualified for the National Speech and Debate Tournament in all of his competition years. He has debated on various topics and issues, such as climate change, gun control, immigration, and many pressing world probelms.**

**Soumil is not only concerned about his own success, but also about the welfare and improvement of his school and community. He has demonstrated his personal commitment to them through his service and leadership. Some of the ways that Soumil has served and led his communities are:**

**Speeches: Soumil is a confident and inspiring speaker who has given speeches in high places to promote relevant issues and causes. He was invited to speak at the VEX Robotics World Championship in 2022, where he shared his experience and encouragement for mentors in robotics and STEM fields. He also spoke at the Autodesk University in 2023, where he presented how to advance the future of engineering education. He also delivered a speech at the General Consulate of India in 2023, where he celebrated the language and heritage of India.**

**Service: Soumil is a generous and compassionate volunteer who has completed more than 250 hours of service as a student.**

**Teaching and Competition Volunteering: Soumil is a helpful and supportive mentor and judge who has frequently supported teaching and competition initiatives. He has taught and tutored students in various subjects and skills, such as math, science, robotics, and debate, etc. He has also volunteered as a judge and referee for various competitions and events.**

**Soumil is a person of remarkable concern for and personal commitment to his school and community. He has achieved and served in various fields and activities that have benefited and enriched his school and community. He is a role model and a leader for his peers and others.**

* + Please rate the applicant’s legacy and influence on their school and/or surrounding community through their service, leadership, and character. \*

**Soumil has left a lasting impact and impression on the people and places that he has interacted and worked with. Some of the examples of Soumil's legacy and influence are:**

**Leadership Positions: Soumil has held various leadership positions in his school and community that have demonstrated his skills, abilities, and personality. He is an officer of his school’s Computer Science Honours Society, President of the Robotics teams (where he leads 5 schools through building 13+ competition robots and winning 19+ trophies), an officer of his theater troupe, founder of his community welfare projects, taekwondo junior instructor, IB Diploma Ambassador, and many more.**

**Trail of Learning: Soumil is a future-minded and goal-oriented person who has always strived for excellence and improvement in his endeavors. He has always sought to learn new things and challenge himself in various fields and activities, but he has also always shared his knowledge and experience with others and helped them achieve their potential and aspirations. He has created a trail of success and learning in all of his involvements, whether it was with teachers, clubs, competitions, or communities. He has received praise and appreciation from his teachers for his academic performance and intellectual curiosity. He has also received awards and recognition from various clubs and competitions for his achievements and contributions. Uniquely, he is nicely future-minded in that he can anticipate long-term problems and solve them with solid, long-term solutions. I have observed this when he worked with me in my publications to put much more effort into making parametric designs which later helped mitigate potential issues.**

**The metaphor of steel's magnetic properties deeply resonates with my understanding of leadership dynamics. Like scattered magnetic domains within a piece of steel, team members possess unique talents, perspectives, and inclinations. However, when influenced by a leader's guidance, these scattered elements align, creating a potent, amplified magnetic force. A leader's role goes beyond shaping outcomes; it involves influencing individuals within the team, aligning their efforts towards a collective goal. Successful leadership not only amplifies the magnetic field but harmonizes the magnetic domains within, magnifying the team's collective potential for a stronger, unified result.**

**What draws me most to the pillar of leadership in NHS is its innate ability to bestow gifts upon organizations, shaping outcomes profoundly. The scarcity of effective leadership in the real world makes this pillar reverberate within me. My belief in leadership is rooted in the understanding that it's a solemn act of service, a gift rather than a pedestal for personal glorification. It transcends conventional notions of hierarchy and authoritative directives, emphasizing the ability to serve the team, foster a resonant environment for collective goals, and prioritize trust and influence over titles or tasks.**

**True leadership isn't synonymous with being at the helm or commanding others. It's about garnering trust, shaping perceptions, and guiding individuals towards a shared purpose. My journey as a local leader has taught me that acquiring trust, influence, respect, and perceived power demands responsible stewardship, rather than conferring entitlement.**

**Reflecting on corporate giants like Apple and Google, I see a subtle yet seismic force at play—the force of leadership. It's not their physical structures or financial reserves that distinguish them, but the enigmatic personas steering their course. Leadership, the invisible hand shaping destinies and industries, isn't confined to boardroom discussions; it sparks revolutions and births innovations that reverberate across continents.**

**In my vision, leadership is not about genius ideas, decades of experience, or a gripping presence. Instead, it involves finding geniuses, visionaries, and doers to manage projects, highlighting the wide-ranging impact of a true leader. Solid leadership harmonizes the efforts of a diverse team, making it possible to achieve large tasks effectively.**

**Leadership's impact is boundless, from solving small disputes to navigating corporate pivots and global crises. Yet, the world faces a steep lack of true leaders and proper leadership. In a world filled with challenges, genuine leadership emerges as a beacon of hope, capable of steering us through crises of all scales. However, the scarcity of authentic leaders willing to embrace change and inspire collective action is palpable, leaving a void where leadership is urgently needed.**

**Harvard Business Review notes that "true leaders are forged in crisis." Despite positions of influence and power, world leaders and executives often falter in delivering decisive, visionary leadership to combat global challenges. The dearth of leaders willing to transcend personal agendas underscores the urgency of nurturing the ethos of leadership as a core value.**

**For me, this scarcity is not just an observation; it's a call to action, a motivation to embody and champion impactful leadership principles in addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Leadership, to me, epitomizes the art of service, the understanding of power's responsibilities, and a call to mend the gaping void in our world's leadership echelons.**

**I firmly believe that leadership isn't just a role or title; it's a profound gift—a calling to serve the collective aspirations of a team. Understanding the weighty implications of influence and power, I endeavor to wield these tools responsibly, cognizant of their potential impact on individuals and communities.**

**The deficit of genuine leadership in today's world serves as both a challenge and a beckoning call. It's a summons to step up and infuse every facet of my life—community welfare projects, competition teams, or community interactions—with the ethos of impactful leadership. In these arenas, I've witnessed the transformative power of leadership, fostering a reciprocal relationship of growth and empowerment.**

**Continuing on this trajectory, I aspire to refine my leadership skills continually, honing the art of influence, guidance, and collective inspiration. Much like the small electromagnet aligning domains within a swath of steel, I aim to amplify the forces of teamwork, accomplishment, and solution-driven approaches. By nurturing this vision of leadership, I envision a world where each individual's potential is harnessed, collective aspirations are fueled, and impactful change becomes an achievable reality.**

The metaphor of steel's magnetic properties resonates profoundly with my understanding of leadership dynamics. Just as a piece of steel possesses inherent but dormant magnetic domains in scattered directions, team members possess unique talents, perspectives, and inclinations. However, when subjected to an external magnetic field—a leader's guidance and influence—these scattered domains align, creating a potent, amplified magnetic force. Likewise, a leader's role isn't merely shaping the overall outcome but influencing individuals within the team, aligning their efforts towards a collective goal. Successful leadership doesn't solely amplify the magnetic field; it harmonizes the magnetic domains within, magnifying the team's collective potential and achieving a stronger, unified result. From this, leadership’s innate ability to bestow gifts upon organizations, its profound influence on shaping outcomes, and the scarcity of effective leadership in the real world, are the reasons why this pillar of NHS reverberates most profoundly within me.

My belief in leadership is rooted in the profound understanding that it's a solemn act of service, a gift rather than a pedestal for personal glorification. Leadership, to me, transcends the conventional notions of hierarchy and authoritative directives. It's the ability to serve the team, to foster an environment where collective goals resonate, and where trust and influence wield more power than mere titles or assigned tasks.

I've come to realize that true leadership isn't synonymous with being at the helm or commanding others. It's about garnering trust, shaping perceptions, and guiding individuals towards a shared purpose. It's not the authority vested in a position but the ability to inspire, influence, and gain the collective commitment of a team towards a common aspiration. Through my journey as a local leader, I've undergone significant growth, understanding that the acquisition of trust, influence, respect, and the perceived power doesn't confer entitlement but instead demands responsible stewardship.

In addition to my philosophy of leadership being a cherished gift for a community rather than the position of a humans’ herding dog, I recognize that following this path of leadership can have significant real-world impacts. When analyzing the vast cosmos of corporate behemoths, a peculiar phenomenon unfurls—a spectacle where similarity masks stark differences. Picture this: Apple and Google, Ford and GM—giants entrenched in parallel arenas, both equipped with staggering wealth, mammoth workforces, and a blueprint mirroring their rival. Yet, amidst this apparent mirage of parity, a subtle yet seismic force emerges, orchestrating an odyssey of triumphs and pitfalls—the force known as leadership. The leaders at the helm are guiding luminaries who wield not just power, but vision, conviction, and the elusive art of inspiration. These corporations are not distinct due to their physical structures or financial reserves. Instead, their divergence is wrapped in the enigmatic personas steering their course through turbulent tides and uncharted territories. Leadership, the invisible hand that shapes destinies and reshapes industries, isn't a mere hierarchical title or a managerial concept confined to boardroom discussions. It's the catalyst that sparks revolutions within organizations, birthing innovations that reverberate across continents, altering the very fabric of societies they touch.

In essence, one of the top factors of ‘getting things done’ in the real world happens not as much through money, connections, or history as it is influenced by leadership. This granted power of action to leaders, from my experience, does not stem from some genius, visionary ideas, decades of experience, nor a gripping presence over others. Rather, it is that leader that finds the geniuses, the visionaries, the strongmen, and the ‘doers’ to manage the project. This is contrary to traditional models of leadership where the most intelligent or the most experienced in a particular field becomes the default captain. My belief is that the leader may be a completely separate, outside, non-technical person that has the separate role of management. In this way, leadership becomes a specialty with a purpose rather than a high-ground region of blind power. My vision for a more leadership-merit-based designation system can truly highlight the wide-ranging impact of a true leader. When there is solid leadership behind a team all the geniuses, workers, thinkers, and executors are able to be better harmonized in completing large tasks.

The size of solutions that leaders can scale are boundless. It takes leaders to solve anything from small civil disputes up till corporate pivots and global crises. Yet, the world is currently facing a steep lack of true leaders and proper leadership. In a world rife with multifaceted challenges, the significance of genuine leadership emerges as a beacon of hope, capable of steering us through the tempestuous waters of crises, both minute and monumental. The scale of problems awaiting solutions spans a vast spectrum, from resolving minor civil disputes to orchestrating corporate transformations and tackling global cataclysms. However, a stark reality looms large—a profound scarcity of authentic leaders and effective leadership in addressing these pressing issues.

Harvard Business Review says that "true leaders are forged in crisis”. The current global landscape is inundated with multifarious crises. Yet, amidst this tumult, there's a pervasive dearth of transformative leadership that can navigate us towards resolutions. Whether at the helm of nations, corporations, or local communities, the prevailing structures, and hierarchies often stumble in addressing the mammoth challenges of our era—be it the existential threat of climate change, the widening chasm of inequality, the unabated proliferation of pollutants, or the pervasive issue of corporate gouging.

World leaders, business magnates, executives, and policymakers, despite their positions of influence and power, falter in delivering the decisive, visionary leadership required to combat these pervasive dilemmas. The dearth of leaders willing to embrace the mantle of change, to transcend conventional paradigms, and to inspire collective action is palpable, leaving a void in the realms where leadership is most urgently required.

This scarcity isn't merely a vacuum of figures holding prestigious titles; it's a shortfall of genuine leaders willing to transcend personal agendas and navigate turbulent waters for the greater good. It's this scarcity of authentic leadership, the dearth of leaders capable of catalyzing transformative change, that underscores the urgency of nurturing and cherishing the ethos of leadership as a core value. For me, this scarcity isn't just an observation; it's a call to action, a motivation to embody and champion the principles of impactful leadership in addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

All in all, leadership, to me, epitomizes the art of service, the conscientious understanding of power's responsibilities, and an urgent call to mend the gaping void in our world's leadership echelons. This holistic perspective encapsulates my approach towards embodying and nurturing the essence of leadership as a core value.

I am steadfast in my belief that leadership isn't just a role or a title; it's a profound gift—a calling to serve the collective aspirations of a team. Understanding the weighty implications of influence and power, I endeavor to wield these tools responsibly, cognizant of their potential impact on individuals and communities.

The gaping deficit of genuine leadership in today's world serves as both a challenge and a beckoning call. It's a summons to step up, to infuse every facet of my life—be it my community welfare projects, competition teams, or community interactions—with the ethos of impactful leadership. In these arenas, I've witnessed the transformative power of leadership, both in shaping me and in inspiring others, fostering a reciprocal relationship of growth and empowerment.

Continuing on this trajectory, I aspire to refine my leadership skills continually, honing the art of influence, guidance, and collective inspiration. Much like the small electromagnet aligning the domains within a swath of steel, I aim to amplify the forces of teamwork, accomplishment, and solution-driven approaches. By nurturing this vision of leadership, I envision a world where each individual's potential is harnessed, collective aspirations are fueled, and impactful change becomes an achievable reality.

Why did you choose to apply for the NHS Scholarship? What motivated you to complete the application? \*

After enjoying my experience through my school’s NHS chapter, I admired the NHS' system of encouraging both personal and community growth in students. My NHS experience also allowed me to feel confident in my personal strengths in Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. In this way, when I heard of this prestigious scholarship, I was enthusiastic to demonstrate my core values, academic distinctions, service projects, and leadership roles.

What does winning the NHS Scholarship mean to you? How did it feel to be selected as a winner? \*

Winning the NHS Scholarship is an immense honor for me. It signifies not only recognition for my academic achievements but also validation of my commitment to service and leadership. Being selected as a winner is an experience that fills me with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment. It serves as affirmation that my efforts to make a difference in my community have been noticed and appreciated. This scholarship is not only an essential financial support for my higher education, but also a symbol of encouragement to continue striving for excellence and making a positive impact in the world around me.

**Name:**

SOUMIL GOYAL

**Pronunciation:**

Saw-mill Go-yell

**Autobiography:**

Soumil Goyal is an Indian-born Singaporean living in the US. He excels in robotics, engineering, programming, public-speaking, physical-fitness, and community outreach.

As a lifelong tinkerer, he demonstrates an endless passion for exploring opportunities and solving problems. For example, after noticing a teacher disposing of a batch of old COVID-19 tabletop dividers, he found a clever solution by repurposing those plastic sheets into engineering and robotics stock material. Through this, he has saved 480+ pounds of PMMA and Polycarbonate plastic from the landfill while also solving his robotic team’s resource-shortage crisis.

In addition to this, he finds deep fulfillment in motivating his peers, and mentoring his youngers. Out of his 300+ volunteer hours, more than 230 of them are dedicated to mentoring, teaching, and competition-coordination actions. He frequently uses his competitive experience and refined skills to mentor communities of students towards rewarding hobbies and competition success.

From these missions, Soumil has seen wide community recognition. He has been a guest speaker at the 2022 Vex Robotics World Championship, an industry-talk host for Autodesk University 2023, and a two-time guest speaker at the Consulate General of India. He works non-stop to ensure that he enhances any aspect of himself, others, and his surroundings. Check out his website on <http://soumilgoyal.com> !