

FIRST Philosophies and Practices

The FIRST principles of Gracious Professionalism and Cooperation, are an important part of the FIRST robotics competition and the team experience. Although much of the FIRST experience is competitive, team members should act professional and cooperate with one another all while at the same time being competitive. This kind of attitude promotes a competitive environment while discouraging negative behavior usually associated with more traditional sports (booing, rivalries, aggressiveness, etc.).

Examples

Going into what would be the final match of the 2006 world championship, the red alliance (296, 217, 522) had one win over the blue alliance (25, 968, 195) in the best of three championship rounds. In match 1, team 217 lost a master link on the chain that powered their robot and didn't have a replacement available. Even though they needed a win to stay alive, team 968 gave team 217 a master link. The red alliance went on to beat the blue alliance in the next match and take home the world championship. This is a great example of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition because even though team 968 wanted to win, they wanted their opponent to compete to their best ability.

The Holy Cows practice gracious professionalism both on and off the field. We practice this by giving resources to the teams that need or ask for it.

A good way to practice Coopertition and Gracious Professionalism off the field is by helping rookie teams expand their resource base. Sharing resources will allow them to build better bots and create or machine the parts they need. Over the years as a veteran team The Holy Cows and other veteran teams have built up many resources such as machining tools, extra materials, mentors, and sponsors (all of the resources are shared with other teams).

In addition, The Holy Cows have created an scouting program known as Cow Scout that is designed as an innovative tool for organizing, accessing, and analyzing competition data back to 1992. As the largest single archive of FIRST competition data in existence, CowScout contains information from every match since 2004, every ranking since 2001, and every award ever given in the history of FIRST. This tool is now open to all teams to use.

Overall the best way to practice FIRST values is to give back to the FIRST community by your sharing resources, but also use the resources that other teams have available for you to use.

Team Created Resources

Team 1538 - The Holy Cows CowScout

www.cowscout.com

Team 1114 - Simbotics Textbook for Success

<http://www.simbotics.org/resources/workshops>

Team 365 - MOE MOEmentum

<http://moe365.org/moementum/moementum.php>

Team 341 - Miss Daisy Team in a Box
<http://www.team341.com/tiab/index.php>

FIRST's Definitions

Gracious Professionalism™

"It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community." - FIRST Definition of Gracious Professionalism™

Coopertition™

"Coopertition is displaying unqualified kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. Coopertition is founded on the concept and a philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete." - FIRST Definition of Coopertition™

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership." - FIRST Mission Statement

Sources:

FIRST Values:

<http://www.usfirst.org/aboutus/gracious-professionalism>

FIRST's Mission:

<http://www.usfirst.org/aboutus/vision>