

Spotlight on Angela Davison!



Angela Davison is a long time FIRST judge, she talks to students about outreach, community search and how teams are spreading the word of FIRST around the community. state and world!

How long have I been volunteering for FIRST?

I've volunteered for the past 13 seasons, and am looking forward to 2018!

What positions have I held?

Website Judge; Judge at the district, state and world championships; Chairman's Judge at district and state; I Judge at district and state; Dean's List Judge at district and state, and now Dean's List Manager for NC

What is my favorite part of volunteering?

Engaging with the students--they are smart, fun, kind, resourceful and creative, and I enjoy the energy they bring. I also truly enjoy working with fellow volunteers; people who volunteer with FIRST also happen to be smart, fun, kind, resourceful and creative. Who wouldn't want to be around FIRSTers?

How has volunteering helped me?

One of the many gifts FIRST has given me is the joy of seeing students grow and become more confident as the years go by. I am so proud of all of them, and I feel very good about being one cog in a program that does so much good. I've met some of my closest friends through FIRST, and since my husband is also a FIRST volunteer, it's a way for us to be together. We celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary at a state championship!

What inspired you to become a volunteer?

I would have loved participating in FIRST if it had been around when I was in school. Since I haven't [yet] figured out how to turn back time so I can enjoy it, at the very least I can contribute toward making it available to today's students.

What words of advice would I give to new volunteers or to those considering volunteering?

Just do it! You don't need a technical background--there is plenty of work for all. Once you see and experience first hand what FIRST does for its students in terms of teaching technical skills and personal growth, you will want to be part of it. We kid new volunteers about there being no exit strategy; you are hooked on FIRST after volunteering just once.

Any favorite anecdotes?

There are many stories, but one of my favorites was from quite a few years back. A team from Chile was competing for the very first time. After putting forth a herculean effort in finding a way to fly the whole team to the U.S., they arrived not realizing that the robot was supposed to be built prior to competition, and not at the competition itself! FIRST students, being the marvelous human beings that they are, put together one of the most massive outpourings of gracious professionalism seen at a competition, and worked with the Chilean team to build a bot that actually competed. It was fabulous to witness! A couple of years ago, a student from this Chilean team caught up with my husband and I at a world championship event, proudly sharing a prototype of a prosthetic hand he built.