

Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – July 2024

Equity – Treating everyone fairly, having equal opportunities and removing barriers.

Diversity – The way we are all different.

Inclusion – Creating space for everyone where differences are embraced.

Team building with Roto Raptors, Team 3737

Team 3737, Roto Raptors is known throughout the *FIRST* community as advocates of team building. Since it can be hard for new teammates to break into a close-knit group, we use team builders to establish an inclusive, welcoming environment within our shop so that we can work more effectively toward our goals.

Because of our passion for team building, we sent 3 of our seniors to the 2024 *FIRST* Championship in Houston where they presented a workshop to approximately 50 students and mentors. Along with demonstrating hands-on team builders with several audience members, our seniors shared real world applications for team building within the industry such as improving effective communication, motivation, cooperation and collaboration skills.

Team building is not just for professional organizations. All *FIRST* teams can benefit from utilizing team builders to engage students and build relationships. Off-season meetings are a great time to introduce team building while prospective members gauge interest in joining a team. Simply start with basic equipment such as a ball, masking tape, and a fun, quirky toy, ensure your mentors are on your side, and bring on board a few key team members to assist with your team building activities. Set goals for your team, such as improving listening skills, then create a clear plan of how you will use team builders to help you achieve those goals including frequency and duration. Most of all, have FUN!

Our team builder archive, linked below, is always available for teams searching for ideas. Check back periodically as team builders are added or revised throughout the year.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4H_VEXA40rnNUIDN3JWZ2dDYjA?resourcekey=0-B7k7JYcrZIRBYb4GP0tGQA&usp=sharing

How do you and your team make members, coaches and mentors feel they belong? Do you have tips for other teams on how to include people and help them feel they really belong?

Send them to FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com or use this [GOOGLE FORM](#) and we'll include them in upcoming newsletters.

From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! – Hack Club Arcade!

While the *FIRST*® season might be over, there's plenty to do in the off-season!

To encourage learning and developing new skills, *FIRST* is collaborating with Hack Club to launch the Hack Club Arcade, an event where you earn prizes by building projects.

Hack Club is a nonprofit that wants to make programming fun for teenagers all around the globe.

Check it out here – [Hack Club Arcade!](#)

July Holidays and Events:

July is [Disability Pride Month](#)

July 1: Canada Day, or Fête du Canada, is a Canadian federal holiday that celebrates the 1867 enactment of the Constitution Act, establishing the three former British colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick as a united nation called Canada.

July 4: Independence Day, or the Fourth of July, is a US federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.

July 7 to July 8: Hijri New Year marks the beginning of the new Islamic calendar year.

July 9: The Martyrdom of the Bab is a day when Bahá'ís observe the anniversary of the Báb's execution in Tabriz, Iran, in 1850.

July 11: St. Benedict Day is the feast day of St. Benedict celebrated by some Christian denominations.

July 14: International Nonbinary People's Day is aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues faced by nonbinary people around the world while celebrating their contributions.

July 15: St. Vladimir Day is a Roman Catholic feast celebrating St. Vladimir.

July 16 (sundown) to July 17 (sundown): Ashura is an Islamic holiday marked by Muslims with a day of fasting.

July 18: Nelson Mandela International Day was established on July 18th, 2009 in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday via a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly.

July 20: Asalha Puja, or Dharma Day, celebrates Buddha's first teachings.

July 23: The birthday of Haile Selassie I, the former emperor of Ethiopia whom the Rastafarians consider to be their savior, is celebrated on this day.

July 23 to August 13: The 3 Weeks is an annual Jewish mourning period for the destruction of the Holy Temple and their launch into a still-ongoing exile.

July 24: Pioneer Day is observed by Mormons to commemorate the arrival of the first Latter-day Saints pioneer in Salt Lake Valley in 1847.

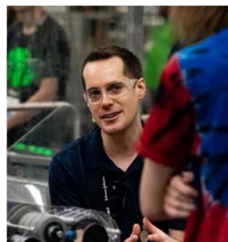
July 25: St. James the Greater Day is a feast day for St. James the Greater celebrated by some Christian denominations.

July 26: Disability Independence Day celebrates the anniversary of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

July 30: The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly.

If you spot an error in the newsletter please email us at: FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Bryan Herbst - FRC Alum New Co-Chief Field Supervisor



FIRST® Robotics Competition has several volunteers who are identified as Co-Chiefs such as Robot Inspector, FTAs, Volunteer Coordinator, and many other roles. FRC Alum Bryan Herbst is the latest Co-Chief Field Supervisor.

Bryan joined FIRST in 2007 as a student on FIRST Robotics Competition Team 2052, KnightKrawler. In 2010 Bryan was a Dean's List Award Finalist at the 10,000 Lakes Regional. After graduating he continued to support the team as a mentor while he studied computer science at the University of Minnesota. Bryan still mentors 2052 and in 2024 he was the Woodie Flowers Finalist at the 10,000 Lakes Regional.

Read more here: [Bryan Herbst](#)

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Training: *From the UCLA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*

Lesson 3 in the Implicit Bias Video Series from BruinX, the R&D unit within UCLA's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This video explores findings that implicit biases can influence our real-world behavior.

Click here to view: [Implicit Bias | Lesson 3: Real World Consequences](#)

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

We are a team of coaches/mentors who want to help create a community and culture of people who embrace the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, who want to develop themselves, and who understand that growth and diversity of all types lead to team excellence.

Anisha Patel (she/her) - The Pitt Pirates 2642

Dave Lashley (he/him) - Team SPORK 3196

Linda Whipker (she/her) - Team PyroTech 3459

Melissa "Bee" Bube (they/she) - Girls on Fire 5679

All Editions are Available Online at: <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/belonging-newsletter>