

Team 1792 is proud to nominate Mya Mendola for the FIRST Dean's List Award.

Mya's journey with FIRST started the way most kids get turned on to this program: as a new sixth grade student, she followed in her older brother's footsteps and joined FLL. Building upon her creativity, FLL gave her an outlet and started forming her into a true leader. As captain of her FLL team for two of her three years in the program, she discovered a passion for problem-solving and presentation that not only motivated her to take the next step into FRC, but also made her a strong supporter and mentor for the FLL program.

Mya joined Round Table Robotics in its second year of existence. The team's first year focused on building the robot, not spreading FIRST or growing the team. In the team's second year, as a freshman, Mya noticed this gap and was instrumental in building 1792's awards program. She was a presenter for the Chairman's award during her first two years on the team and spearheaded the application process for every award since she joined the team. In addition to writing essays, she has led efforts to form our programs for entrepreneurship, sustainability, community service and spreading the FIRST program in our community. Mya is a key reason this team had its most successful year in 2018, winning the Entrepreneurship Award at the inaugural Great Northern Regional, and the Engineering Inspiration Award in front of our sponsors and families at our hometown event, the Wisconsin Regional. This was also our ticket to the Championships in Detroit.

As part of an elite group of students on our team, Mya helped change the way our team functions by forming an Operations Team. On par with the Technical side of the team, Operations controls the awards process, outreach, marketing and fundraising. By demonstrating that Operations is just as important as the robot, we now attract and engage students who would never think about joining a robotics team. Mya currently serves our team as the Chief of Operations and shows newer students how important this role is. Mya's Operations team has worked hard on a solid three-year plan focusing on the growth of our team. They discovered that we are more than just an FRC team and this epiphany led us to change our structure. We became a year-round STEM Club that is open to any and all students with an interest in STEM. This larger group of students helped us with our third annual Oak Creek FLL regional event. Mya served as the student leader of facilities for the event, responsible for the setup and takedown of an FLL regional that had 40 teams in attendance.

Her other contributions to the team's long-term plans have included working with the Hunger Task Force on an autonomous farming robot, introducing FLL Jr to the Oak Creek School District by forming 18 new teams, organizing an Oak Creek School District STEAM Fair for April 2019, setting up Girl Scout GoldieBlox events and working to form a coalition of Wisconsin FRC teams. She also found time to coach 2 FLL Jr teams this year and has mentored four FLL teams over the past three years. Mya does all of this while being very active in the Oak Creek High School Drama program and a member of the National Honor Society. She has also led the team to support causes that are important to her and her fellow students. She has organized training on how to properly use the school's trauma kits. The team has worked with the local fire department to make sure these kits are in every school room in the district as well as local businesses. She has also led groups of students to volunteer at inner-city meal programs. Mya has worked with other female students and team mentors to bring awareness to specific issues that can affect women in engineering. Mya does all of this with a smile on her face and can-do attitude that will serve her well in life. We look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.