

Welcome, *FIRST* AmeriCorps Program Members!

2022-2023 MSY



Volusia County Site

FL



Adrian joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program to provide students in his area with the same opportunity he had to explore STEM in a fun and welcoming environment. He is looking forward to seeing the program participants he works with grow as aspiring STEM students.



Adrian Landete

He / Him

Volusia County, FL Site

Adrian believes that STEM education provides students an opportunity to build interdisciplinary skills and problem-solving strategies, which he feels are instrumental for success in the modern world.

Adrian is an aerospace engineering major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is an alum of FRC Team 2152 and FTC Teams 18747 and 17197.



Ashley decided to join the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program because she just completed her coding classes at UCF and wants to help kids learn about code. She is excited to work with LEGO elements and help the students build robots that complete tasks that they are proud of.



Ashley Barnaba

She / Her

Volusia County, FL Site

When Ashley was in school, she noticed that her peers struggled in math. This inspired her to show others that math is fun, useful, and relevant for everyday tasks. She is extremely passionate about positively exposing students to STEM, more specifically mathematics, through *FIRST*.

Ashley is double majoring at UCF in accounting and mathematics, enjoys going to the Kennedy Space Center to watch rocket launches, and is a pass holder of her local zoo.



Connor joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program because *FIRST* was a healthy outlet of creativity for him and made high school feel like a safe place and wants to be able to give other students the same experiences and opportunities he had.



Connor Pagan

He / Him

Volusia County, FL Site

STEM, in Connor's eyes, is shaping young minds to be excited about robotics, and he has observed the positive impact *FIRST* has already made on his area. He is excited to contribute to this impact and looks forward to helping teachers with STEM education.

Connor loves rock climbing, jogging, and paintball. He was a member of the Academy of Information, Technology, and Robotics, whose foundation was in FRC. He was driven to pursue a career in engineering because of his time spent learning mechanical skills, CAD, and game design.



Tori joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program because she really wants kids to become interested in tech and robotics—especially the ones that might not know much about it. Tori believes STEM is the future, and that no matter what a student is into, a STEM background is helpful in all fields.

Tori's sons are on an FLL Challenge team and are enjoying it immensely. FIRST programs have intrigued her for years and she is very excited to work with teachers on implementing the programs.

Tori is a mother of twin 11-year-olds and has recently returned to the work force. She is an accomplished athlete as a former national ranked competitive swimmer, competitive archer, and USA-certified archery coach. She also holds a black belt in Taekwondo.



Tori Kaspert

She / Her

Volusia County, FL Site



New York City Site

NY



Anas joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program to give the opportunities to students that he received from his past *FIRST* mentors and teammates. He is excited for the moment a student learns something but is equally as excited for when he can learn from a student.



Anas Abousalham

He / Him
NYC, NY Site

Anas feels as though we are entering a future in which STEM excels. He observes that his community wishes to be included in this and believes this future will come sooner by widening the range of STEM education to everyone!

Anas is an alum of FRC Team 4571 with extensive multidisciplinary experience. He enjoys deriving concepts and skills from scratch. He is a student at the City College of New York and looks forward to a future led by AI systems, efficient computation, and clean limitless energy.



Isaiah joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program so that he can teach students and continue to learn from them as he moves forward. He is most excited to take a dip back into *FIRST* programs and share the experience he has in working with, and beyond *FIRST*.



Isaiah Wilson

He / Him
NYC, NY Site

STEM education to Isaiah is a future that can no longer be ignored and is present in the way the world of tomorrow is being shaped. He remarks that *FIRST* saved his life, gave him purpose, and keeps him going every single day.

Isaiah is a *FIRST* alum and did one year of FTC and three years of FRC. He enjoys creating things and working with his hands but is also interested in the financial and marketing side of things. He used to play football and handball and run cross-country and track.



Summer joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program because she was intrigued by all the great opportunities the program had to offer. She is excited for the experience and exposure that she will gain from and how it will build her into a great leader and person that can move forward into STEM.



Summer Galarza

She / Her
NYC, NY Site

STEM education matters to Summer because it is intertwined into so many different fields. She wants to show that STEM has a place everywhere and can fit into all forms of interests, even if it appears like it is far from a STEM field.

Summer is an FRC alumna and enjoyed the extracurricular exposure the program gave her to STEM. She loves to draw and sketch and is currently learning how to crochet.



Compton Site

CA



Julio joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps Program to bring STEM to students, with how it could help their future academic careers in mind. He is most excited about working with teachers and students on the problems they might encounter. He feels that STEM is the future- technology is constantly improving, which calls for more STEM students.

Julio has worked with Arduino, Vex Robotics, and mechatronics, which sparked and continued his interest in STEM and inspired him to pursue a career in computer science.

Every night before going to sleep, he does an hour of programming to ensure that his brain can process it while he sleeps and that he can then edit it with fresh eyes in the morning.



Julio Valenzuela

He / Him

Compton, CA Site



Hillsborough County Site

FL



Margery joined the *FIRST* AmeriCorps program because she was interested in mentoring/coaching. She is excited to empower participants to build leadership and problem-solving skills, and to inspire the next generation of innovators.



Margery Singleton

She / Her

Hillsborough County, FL Site

She is already seeing the impact *FIRST* is having in the middle school where she is serving- the students are excited to be a part of the robotics community and are ready to share their knowledge and compete with others.

Margery's education career began with teaching reading and English at the middle and high school levels. She served as an AmeriCorps mentor for at-risk high school students with Hillsborough Education Foundation. She is a self-published children's book author and enjoys the outdoors and walking.

