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| **Chickenados**  **Robotics**  FTC team 8628 | **Maintain Support of FIRST Robotics!**  It’s vital to encourage youth to engage in STEM and supporting FIRST is one of the best ways to do that. |
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| OBJECTIVE  Increase funding to worldwide robotics program FIRST.    **CONTACT US!**  Email logo **EMAIL** chickenadosrobotics@gmail.com  Website logo **WEBSITE** <https://www.chickenados.org/>    **LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRST!**  Website logo **NATIONAL WEBSITE:** <https://www.firstinspires.org/>  Website logo **WA CHAPTER WEBSITE:** <https://firstwa.org/> | What is first? FIRST is a worldwide program with the objective of engaging young people in STEM. FIRST works to develop not only skills in software and engineering, but also leadership, communication, and teamwork. Students can participate in programs as early as PreK and continue until 12th grade.  Each year is centered around a game, and the season revolves around designing, building, and programming a robot that your team feels will best complete the given objectives. You might have to launch rings, stack cubes, or drive over barriers. But in addition to the STEM skills that students gain from programs like FLL (Lego robots on a table sized field), FTC (18x18x18-inch robots on a 12x12 foot field), and FRC (28x38x60 inch robots on a basketball-court-sized field), students are encouraged to spread the values of FIRST around their community through outreach presentations and volunteering. Who are we? **Chickenados Robotics:** Seattle, WA  We are a neighborhood team in our eleventh year as a part of the FIRST program. Comprised of 8 high school students from four schools around the Seattle area, our team has had great success in FLL and FTC, advancing to the State level competition in 5 out of our 8 years in FTC. How has robotics impacted us? FIRST builds strong STEM related skills. Students are encouraged to learn CAD, onShape, and java, as well as utilize innovative engineering processes and develop an engineering notebook. Our team’s alumni – many of whom have gone on to pursue STEM careers - have reported the utility of FTC’s teachings in the real world. Getting girls involved in stem  * Girls who participate in FIRST are three times as likely to take engineering courses as their non-FIRST counterparts * Female participation in FIRST has grown from 28% to 42% in recent years * 51% of female FIRST alums declare a major in engineering or computer science, compared to 16% of non-FIRST participants.   Our team, a majority female-identifying team, recognizes the value of involving girls in STEM. We strive to lift our female members up, allowing their voices to be heard during practice, competition, and in the community.  *“Being involved in FIRST has had a profound impact on who I am today. I can’t quantify the growth that I’ve gotten from this program, from discovering a passion for computer science, to becoming more vocal in my classes.”*  -Anna P., Captain  *“As a woman in STEM, I’m grateful for the leadership opportunities that FIRST offered me, and the doors that were opened because of the experience I gained.”*  -Claire H., Programming Lead  We’re lucky to have numerous girls in leadership positions on our team, and we work to encourage other teams to recruit more as well. Providing young children, and girls in particular, with opportunities to get involved in STEM can produce long-term interest in technology and engineering related subjects. It’s vital to provide opportunities for underrepresented communities to engage in STEM-based learning, and FIRST provides an amazing outlet for this to happen. |
|  | First's impacts  * Nationally, more than 679,000 students participate in FIRST * Washington has more than 15,000 students and 1,200 teams engaged * 81% of FIRST alumni declare a STEM major  How can you help? Washington Legislation has a history of generous support for FIRSTWA, the state’s chapter of FIRST. We want to encourage continued support of FIRST’s programs, so that students like us can continue to do what we love! |