

1 Describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants within the last 3 years. This can include but is not limited to percentages of those graduating high school, attending college in STEM careers, and in FIRST programs as mentor/sponsors.

Confidence is often an elusive feeling for high schoolers. Many students join Team 4063 questioning how they will fit in. Nevertheless, team members end each season with greater self-confidence developed through honing their communication skills. Team 4063 has been blessed in the fact that 100% of our members have received their high school diploma and 75% have gone on to pursue a STEM degree at the college level.

2 Describe your community along with how your team addresses its unique opportunities and circumstances.

Del Rio is on the US – Mexico border. The typical career path here is governmental or manufacturing. Up until 10 years ago, when someone mentioned STEM, citizens thought of our Laughlin Air Force Base or Union Pacific. Through the help of Team 4063, E-CADET, RoboCamp, the School District, the Mayor, and STEM Proclamation Day, the knowledge of STEM is being delivered throughout the city and county.

3 Describe the team’s methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the FIRST message in way that are effective, scalable sustainable, and creative. How does your team measure results?

Each season, Team 4063 members adopt a local elementary E-CADET team. It is the team member’s responsibility to teach them what it means to be a “Bunny” in the FIRST community. Team 4063 members know they have made an impact when little kids are overheard telling their parents they want to grow to be a Bunny. As a result, the Class of 2020 was our first graduating class that has participated in all the robotics programs offered in Del Rio.

4 Please provide specific examples of how your team members act as role models within the FIRST community with emphasis on the past 3 years.

Team 4063 views each event as an opportunity to employ our Gracious Professionalism. Easy to spot at events with our unique, pink, bunny-eared hats, we can be found assisting other team, resetting the field, acting as ambassadors, and manning the safety glasses station. With a solid foundation in safety, our safety captain has mentored a total of 6 local middle school FLL teams as well as numerous rookie FRC teams.

5 Describe your team’s initiatives to Assist, Mentor and/or Start other FIRST teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.

In addition to acting as mentors for every E-CADET team, Team 4063 also mentored FRC Team 8369 and FRC Team 8405. Coaches drove to Uvalde and San Antonio several times during build season last year to get them up and building. At home some of the team members created a “Game Manual for Rookies”, team documents on mounting bumpers, pit awareness, event do’s and don’ts, and supply lists, along with our contact information.

6 Beyond starting teams, what initiatives have you done to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What results have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?

Due to district restrictions, elementary students are not allowed to travel outside city limits. Thus, we founded E-CADET, so these students could participate in a program similar to FIRST to prepare them for FLL and FRC. Starting with the Class of 2020, 45% of Team 4063 were members of ALL the robotics programs offered in the Del Rio School District. So to pay it forward, we mentor, devise the game, build the field, write the rules and act as judges, referees, and scorekeepers for the E-CADET.

7. Describe the partnerships you’ve created with other organizations (team, sponsors, educational institutions, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together with emphasis on the past 3 years.

Our team is passionate about safety and volunteering. Our safety captain and some members have gone to Pre-K and elementary schools at the end of each school year and presented to students about summer and water safety. Many city organizers plan events and ask Team 4063 for volunteers. Our team has volunteered at the following: Feast of Sharing, Lake Amistad Clean Up, Bank & Trust Fall Festival, Robot Rodeo at Laughlin Air Force Base, Bowling for Niños, Relay for Life, and many more.

8 Describe your team’s efforts in the past 3 years to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion within your team, FIRST, and your communities.

Not only is Del Rio on the US-Mexico border, it is home to Laughlin Air Force Base. Which in turn allows our team to have a very large diversity of students. We pride ourselves on having students with a wide variety of abilities and experiences.

9 Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will continue to run effectively for the foreseeable future.

When polled, many Team 4063 members have stated that the E-CADET program opened their eyes to pursuing STEM based careers. With the Class of 2021 we have one pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering, one for Electrical Engineering, one for Mechanical Engineering and one for Automotive Technology.

10 Describe your team's innovative strategies to recruit, retain, and engage your sponsors within the past 3 years.

Team 4063's Booster Club has taken the initiative on Sponsorships. They have organized Fundraisers, mailed flyers to many local business and Shout Outs on our Social Media. Bank & Trust has been our life long sponsor. They have donated approximately \$7,000 dollar each year.

11 Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.

The area in which we struggle in, is the transfer of knowledge from veteran members to rookie members. We started creating Learning Centers for each subgroup, safety, scouting, electrical, construction, and programming. The designated Captains for each subgroup are in charge of creating the training modules for the new team members.

12 Describe your team's goals to fulfill the mission FIRST and the progress you have made towards those goals.

Our goal for 2022 is to move our elementary E-CADET teams to FLL teams. Each of our 8 elementary campus' currently have 4 robotics teams which would allow Del Rio to host our own FLL Competition. Moving to FLL would also allow our younger generations to participate in a high level of robotics. Team 4063 coaches have been talking with the School District to make the transition.

13 Briefly describe other matters of interest to the FIRST Judges, including items that may not fit into the above topics. The judges are interested in learning about aspects of your team that may be unique or particularly noteworthy.

Team 4063 is more than just a team, we are a family. During build season we spend more time with our team family than we do with our actual family. Our family designate game nights for the team members and coach to get to know each other better. Many of the parents have volunteered to assist in building our practice field, weekday and travel snacks, weekend lunches and dinners. Parents have even brought their family dogs to the facility to help alleviate the stresses of build season.