



For questions or more information on *FIRST* alumni groups and involvement, contact: alumni@firstinspires.org

For questions or more information on scholarships and internships, contact: scholarships@firstinspires.org



FIRST® PREPARES STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:

SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREERS, AND BEYOND

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***FIRST*® IS A GLOBAL ROBOTICS COMMUNITY PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE FUTURE**

COLLEGES AND COMPANIES VALUE *FIRST* EXPERIENCE

Whether college, career, or service is your next step, *FIRST* is here to support you on your next endeavor. *FIRST* alumni stand out to potential employers. They are innovative, leaders, and ready to hire. By participating in *FIRST* programs, our alumni have gained skills and attitudes needed in today's workforce, including problem solving, teamwork, innovative thinking, creative thinking, perseverance, and leadership. But don't take it from us!

“ From day one [as a mechanical engineering undergrad], I realized that *FIRST* had given me two huge advantages: I had a good idea of what I wanted to do, and I already had experience doing it. ”

Joe Polin
FIRST alum

FIRST ALUMNI...



are more prepared in their college courses.



are more confident in managing time.



have had hands-on experiences relevant to their course work.



have confidence to take leadership roles in school.



have mentors or peers they can turn to for help with career decisions.

Source: *FIRST* Alumni Study (2015)



SCHOLARSHIPS

HOW DOES THE *FIRST* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WORK?

FIRST Scholarships are funded and administered by the scholarship providers. Scholarship providers are primarily four-year colleges and universities, but also include community colleges, technical schools, corporations, and associations.

Each scholarship is unique and has its own award amount, eligibility requirements, application requirements, and application deadline.

Most applications are due the last year of high school (December-April), but applicants should pay close attention to individual deadlines.

Opportunities, applications, and details about available scholarships can be found at firstinspires.org/scholarships.

WHAT IF THERE ARE NO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ME IN THE PROGRAM?

Your *FIRST* experience is still incredibly valuable when applying for non-*FIRST*-specific scholarship opportunities. You have hundreds (or maybe even thousands!) of hours put into *FIRST*. You've gained all kinds of skills and have stories to answer any essay question thrown at you.

Ask your chosen school what internal scholarship opportunities you may be eligible for. Look for scholarships in your community or through professional associations in related fields.

Check out online scholarship aggregators like fastweb.com, collegeboard.com, and tallo.com.



INTERNSHIPS

Any meaningful participation you've had in *FIRST* is relevant experience for a work environment, whether you led the programming team, presented to sponsors, or coached a *FIRST*® LEGO® League team. *FIRST* is real-world experience and should be presented as such on your resume. Note your role(s) on your team and projects, awards, and achievements, and capture any additional volunteer experience, too.

Companies that support *FIRST* love hiring *FIRST* participants and alumni as interns and employees. Seek them out!

Learn more and apply for internships at firstinspires.org/graduate.

ALUMNI NETWORKING

We're here for you as you make your next steps. For resources on crafting your resume, preparing for your next interview, finding local *FIRST* alumni networking groups, and more, visit firstinspires.org/graduate.

Be sure your firstinspires.org dashboard account is under your active email and opt-in to alumni updates so we can stay in touch and share news, tips, and opportunities.



When you become a *FIRST* alum, you understand just how wide the *FIRST* network reaches and just how willing and excited that network is to help you achieve your goals. I got involved with *FIRST* years ago, and it's been amazing to see the ways in which *FIRST* and the connections I formed have shaped my journey since. ”

Naoka Gunawardena
FIRST alum

STAY INVOLVED

There are lots of ways to stay involved with *FIRST* after becoming a *FIRST* alum. Volunteering is an awesome way to pay it forward to the next generation. It's also a chance to continue building valuable skills and meaningful connections to advance your own career and personal development goals.

I have a few hours or few days to give:

As a *FIRST* event volunteer, you can join the global support system we've built to help young people find what makes them come alive – and be re-energized yourself.

I'm looking for a long-term commitment:

As a *FIRST* team mentor or coach, you can empower young people to think big and feel hopeful for their future. You don't need particular expertise, but you do need a schedule that lets you make a reliable mentorship commitment throughout the season (varies by program and team).

Learn more at firstinspires.org/volunteer.

