

FIRST Impact Award - Team 9134

2025 - Team 9134

Team Number

9134

Team Nickname

Prepa Tecmilenio - DEVOLT

Team Location

Chihuahua, CHH - Mexico

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants within the last 3 years. Think about percentages of those graduating high school, attending college, in STEM careers, leadership skills, and serving as mentors/sponsors in *FIRST* programs.

At Devolt, members grow into astronauts, in the past 3 years, 500+ crew members have joined our journey, with 100% continuing to high school and professional careers, 90% in STEAM fields. 80% enter top universities, while 15% remain for 5+ years, 15% become mentors, and 50% stay engaged through ExaDevolt, ensuring next generation continues across stars. We've secured \$20,000+ in scholarships, empowering our members to achieve their goals while staying connected to inspire future innovators.

Describe your community along with its unique opportunities and circumstances. Think about your geographic region, diversity of town/school, language barriers, socioeconomic barriers, and cultural expectations.

Chihuahua faces major challenges, including a 13.8% school dropout rate—the highest in Mexico—along with rural poverty and poor infrastructure that hinder education. Despite growing interest in STEM, only 35% of students are women, and homeschoolers remain far from FIRST. To address this, we created the 1st public school team, 1st all-girls team & 1st homeschoolers team. Through our projects, we've brought technology to thousands of children, including military kids who lack these opportunities.

Describe the team's methods, with emphasis on the past 3 years, for spreading the *FIRST* Mission in ways that are effective, scalable, sustainable, and creative.

We believe change begins with inspiration, guiding our members from elementary school to university through all 3 FIRST categories, helping them develop innovative projects and build impressive résumés. Our members have earned over 30 awards, including global nominations in NASA Space Apps, and have developed more than 15 groundbreaking projects, such as ECOFILAMENT (PET plastic filament). Through youth awards, they become role models for younger generations, whom we inspire through our projects

Describe your team's goals and the progress you have made towards them to fulfill *FIRST's* Vision.

We envision a world where all young people become the leaders of tomorrow, and everyone can be part of this journey. The Stars of Our Mission helped 90,000 girls in vulnerable situations, connecting stars across 100+ schools, 30 communities, 7 editions of our summer camps, and over 30 projects. Our goal is for FIRST to touch as many lives as possible, which is why we have projects for diverse groups and communities. These initiatives bring STEAM into the lives of children.

What impact has your team seen from your efforts described in the above question? How does your team measure impact?
We've seen impact through projects that inspire youth, such as our STEAM summer camp, where we recruit 50%, Connecting Stars has sparked scientific interest in over 90%.. Bringing STEAM to so many groups has allowed us to form partnerships and become ambassadors, creating initiatives like ARTEVISA and a STEAM adaptation manual for the visually impaired. These efforts show how engaging young people in STEAM initiatives fosters lasting interest and active participation in impactful opportunities.
Please provide specific examples of how your team and team members act as role models within the <i>FIRST</i> community with emphasis on the past 3 years. How do you share these best practices with other teams?
To serve as role models for the FIRST community, we created Level Up, a project to support Hispanic teams. We've mentored 20 teams, assisted 150, and reached 10,000 people. We translated the Game Manual 0, provided tools like the Super Manual (FTC robot assembly guide) in 2023 and 2024, and launched the first Spanish-speaking YouTube channel with tips for FTC and FLL. Through these efforts, we've helped improve teams within the FIRST community.
Describe your team's initiatives to Assist, Mentor, and/or Start other <i>FIRST</i> teams with emphasis on activities within the past 3 years.
At Devolt, launching and supporting new FIRST teams is central to our mission. We've mentored 20 teams, assisted 150, and helped create 11 teams. In the past three years, we've expanded our constellation by creating 6 new DEVOLT teams and 5 teams in Chihuahua—7 FLL and 4 FTC. Additionally, we've helped establish teams in Puerto Rico and Brazil. Helping teams navigate the FIRST universe and reach for the stars remains one of our top priorities.
What other initiatives have you created, grown, sustained, or participated in (<i>FIRST</i> or otherwise) to help inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators? What outcomes have you seen from your efforts in the past 3 years?
Our goal is to bring STEAM to every star in the universe. We've created 8 STEAM camps, hosted 50 outreach events across schools and held 40 internal events, reaching 5,000 students. Through 15 collaborative projects with the Science Museum, including 6 years of STEAM Saturdays, robotics exhibitions, and conferences with the Astronomical League, we've inspired thousands. We've reached vulnerable children, including youth in shelters and military families, through our SEDENA volunteering efforts.
Describe the partnerships and relationships that you've created with other organizations (teams, sponsors, educational institutions, government, philanthropic entities, etc.) and what you have accomplished together, with emphasis on the past 3 years.
In the past 3 years, we partnered with 50 sponsors, organizations, and civil associations, reaching more stars. With the Science Museum, we impacted 200,000+ children. Through ACs like CEIAC, we created a STEAM manual for visually impaired students and led 20+ projects, including fundraisers for children with cancer. With Rotary, initiatives like "Hand Project," providing free prosthetics, reforestation, school improvements, and volunteering with SEDENA to teach robotics to military children.
Describe your team's efforts in the past 3 years to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within your team, <i>FIRST</i>, and your communities.
At Devolt, we foster equity. Our 120-member team unites students from 25+ private, public, and homeschool settings, starting at age 10. Women make up 65% of our crew, and we founded our state's 1st all-girls team. Through our projects, we bring science to rural areas, vulnerable communities, visually impaired children, military families & homeschoolers, and founded 1st FLL team for homeschoolers. We lead Level Up, supporting teams with a Spanish YouTube channel and translations.

Explain how you ensure your team and the initiatives you have created will be sustainable.	
Devolt's sustainable cycle ensures growth through our model of transitioning between categories. Many members who joined at 9 are now graduating. After progressing through FLL, FTC, and FRC, they become Dean's List nominees. 15% stay over 5 years, 15% return as mentors, and 50% transition into former Devolt students. Leaving FLL means becoming a mentor, with all 6 teams staying connected under one base. This cycle fosters growth & leadership, creating a constellation of future innovators.	
Highlight one area in which your team needs to improve and describe the steps actively being taken to make those improvements.	
Managing new recruits to our ship is one of our greatest challenges. As one of Mexico's largest teams in a small city, we work to integrate a diverse crew. With members from 25+ institutions, we've developed an action plan to ensure everyone feels connected and impactful. Connecting with the scientific community is challenging, but through our projects, our members become science leaders themselves, creating opportunities and reaching even further.	
Briefly describe other matters of interest to the <i>FIRST</i> 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, particularly noteworthy, or had a large impact.	
We are a pioneering team in Mexico competing in all three categories since 2017, always prioritizing people. Since 2022, we've represented Mexico at the World Festival, earning 3 FLL, 2 FTC, and 2 FRC spots. In 2023, we made history with a team in each category at Worlds. We've had 6 Dean's List Finalists and Mexico's first Winner. With 125 awards, media recognition, and impactful projects, we inspire the FIRST community through collaborations, hoping to leave a lasting mark in Mexico.	
Judge Feedback	
	Thanks for being an honorary crew member in this spaceship. The purpose is to write it as a space journey through our history. Is there anything we should add or remove? An area the team has an opportunity to improve. Something that really impressed the judges.
Essay	
Mission 9134 Crew members We travel through space as one big family, fueled by the same force that drives the stars to shine. With 130 members from over 25 public, private, and homeschool institutions, 65% of whom are women, we prove that STEAM is for everyone. Since 2016, we have started 17 DEVOLT teams (10 FLL, 5 FTC, 2 FRC), 6 of them in the last 3 years, growing through 9 generations of astronauts, 500 people have been part of this journey as team members, with 15% continuing on the team for 5+ years, 15% becoming mentors, and 50% remaining engaged through ExaDevolt. Over the past 3 years, we have started 11 teams, assisted 150, and mentored 20, expanding our reach and making history with the 1st public school team, 1st all-girls team, and 1st all-homeschooler team in our state,we continue building the future, screw by screw, together. The stars of our mission The protagonists of this mission are not the robots, but 90,000 girls who have found a space in STEAM to achieve their dreams. Since 2016, we have worked to pave the way for them through STEAM courses and conferences to foster homes, impacting 20,000 girls in the last 3 years, also Genius Girls 2024, where we taught science to girls in vulnerable situations, and Recognize Your Power, which reached 100 girls, combined 5 weeks of empowerment activities, including self-defense & robotics. Our involvement as ambassadors for FIRSTLikeAGirl & M.E FIRST program strengthens our commitment promoting participation of girls in robotics and creating a safe space with menstrual hygiene products in schools. We've also held conferences that have impacted thousands of women and girls with NASA. Furthermore, we founded 1st female Rotaract, impacting girls across 4 cities. We continue to prove	

that girls not only have the power to dream, but also to conquer the universe. Shooting stars On our journey, we have encountered shooting stars—sponsors and allies—who have illuminated our path. Since 2021, we have collaborated with 78 sponsors, including NASA Space Apps, MIT, Rotary International and many other, these partnerships have provided crucial support and resources, allowing us to develop a lot of skills. Beyond financial support, these collaborations have taught us how to interact with companies, strengthening education and social responsibility. We have hosted NASA Space Apps for 4 years and served as ambassadors for their projects. Together, we continue building bridges to the future. Connecting Stars A visionary project has mapped constellations of knowledge in Chihuahua, the state with the highest school dropout rate in Mexico, connecting more than 100 schools and 30 communities in a mission to bring STEAM to over a million children and young people since 2016. Like stars in the vastness of the cosmos, each initiative has shone brightly, from 7 editions of STEAM Summercamps and exhibitions at schools & public centers, igniting curious minds to combat school dropout rates. In times of darkness, such as the pandemic, virtual classes acted as beacons in space, meanwhile, family workshops, science courses, and over 6 years of STEAM Saturdays have served as launchpads into knowledge. In 2022, we help to establish the 1st STEAM classroom in the city, this project continues to expand its orbit, ensuring that every child and young person in Chihuahua can reach the stars. Space Transmissions We have sent transmissions into space and continue to extend our impact even further. Our FLL teams have created more than 10 innovation projects and have been nominated for Global Innovation Award 3 times as Mexico's representatives. Since 2020, we have participated in the NASA Space Apps, the world's largest hackathon, earning 5 global nominations with projects such as satellite tracking platforms, satellite deconstruction apps, and the dissemination of NASA technology through websites for children. We have also been recognized with our members receiving Chihuahua's Youth Award 4 times, reaffirming our commitment to positive community impact. As part of our mission to foster creativity, we created YouTube Makers, we produce educational videos to inspire more people to explore science. Asteroid Belt On our journey through space, we encountered asteroids flowing through universe. We decided to help them find their path, uniting them. We began with initiatives impacting 120 children in the Sierra Tarahumara, a rural community, followed by 3 editions of Amor Gratis, bringing STEAM to 160 children from vulnerable communities. With Genius Kids, we reached a foster home, helping 18 children in foster care, ensuring that everyone is part of this galaxy. Since 2022, we have offered courses to 230 homeschoolers helping create the 1st homeschooling team to join the belt, enriched with tools to move forward. Through our volunteer work, we brought piano and STEAM classes to children of military personnel, connecting the entire belt and proving that technology can be accessible and free for everyone. Super Nova Since 2016, Super Nova has been an explosion of energy and light. Over the years, we developed 170 activities, touching the lives of over 10,000. Since 2021, we've collected clothing, food supplies, toys & bottle caps for chemotherapy treatments. Collaborations with organizations like Conquistando Sonrisas & CEIAC have been key, supporting children with cancer and developing ARTEVISA, a STEAM manual for children with visual impairments. In 2024, Little Paws project contributed to the adoption and treatment of over 30 dogs, while eco-friendly initiatives, such as reforestation, recycled paper and clean-up events, involved over 200 people. Super Nova has left an indelible mark on Earth, demonstrating our capacity to change lives. Level Up Taking off beyond expectations since 2021, we work for elevate FIRST in Mexico, propelling FLL and FTC teams to explore new orbits of excellence as they journey through vast stellar systems. Through meetings and practice sessions with over 150 teams, we have built an interplanetary network of collaboration, connecting the galaxy of robotics. With tools like the Super Manual 2023 and 2024, which provide guidance for building FTC robots, and the translation of Game Manual 0, we have launched a support website offering mechanical and management advice, guiding teams like star maps through the cosmos. Our mission has touched over 10,000 lives, spreading the light of innovation beyond Mexico's borders and supporting the creation of international teams. As we continue our ascent, we defy gravity, ensuring that the future of FIRST in Latin America reaches new heights, we have launched the 1st Spanish Youtube support channel for FTC & FLL. Our ship keeps flying toward new frontiers, without limits, without end. Star Nebula On our journey to Mars, this project has been like that unexpected encounter with a nebula in the vast space, where light and matter fuse to new stars. Similarly, this initiative has, in the past 3 years, connected with more than 2 million people through projects such as the Dean's List, awards won, and valuable collaborations with over 100 institutions. Media outlets such as radio, television, podcasts, newspapers, and news stations have been the vessels that have transported these ideas and projects. This reach is just the beginning of even more ambitious initiatives like DEVOLT scholarship program for 20 children, a collaboration with Chihuahua Department of Education for STEAM programs. With this action, Star

Nebula not only aims to reduce this figure but also provide opportunities for young people who otherwise would not have access to tools that could change their future. Like a nebula that gives birth to new stars, this project continues to create new projects, ideas, and dreams, illuminating the lives of thousands of stars. DEVOLT remains a spark of inspiration, guiding the way to a brighter future for all. The Future: Reaching Mars But what's the next destination for our mission? At Devolt, we have built a successful model based on the transfer of knowledge and values across generations, leaving a clear path that proves the journey is the right one, like the sun for the planets, ensuring that every journey becomes an opportunity to shape leaders and game changers. Each step, from reaching Phobos and Deimos to now aiming for Mars, has been essential in building the foundation for success. This approach has led our members to become school captains, student leaders, candidates for youth scholarships and academies—with over 30 scholarships awarded, more than \$30,000 across all generations— as well as recipients of global awards. Through projects like our "Dean Project," where we celebrated the historic achievement of a DEVOLT star, the 1st Mexican Dean's List Winner, and through the ongoing legacy of those who return as mentors, who have been awarded Woodie Flowers Award and also Compass Award at FTC World Championship, we show that in this journey to Mars, every part of the expedition has been crucial in shaping who we are today. Devolt fosters a growth cycle that inspires new generations. Thus, even when a journey seems to end, it is truly the beginning of a path that transforms each participant into a role model capable of leading and excelling in any field. As we continue toward Mars, we know the lessons learned from Phobos and Deimos—those early milestones—have equipped us to go further. Reminding others that first, we unite people, then nuts and bolts, and this is exactly what makes us extraordinary. ;

