

TEAM NUMBER: 245**STUDENT NOMINEE NAME: Dean Keithly****GRADE OF STUDENT NOMINEE: 11****NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON TEAM: 47****EXPLANATION IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION:**

Dean Keithly has been an active participant in the Adams High School Robotics team for three years. This year he has taken on the very important role of team captain and project manager. We are a year-round team, therefore this role takes a twelve month commitment to all aspects of the *FIRST* ideals including inspiring others, increasing your technical expertise, passion, working closely with mentors, and increasing awareness of *FIRST* in the school and the community.

Dean took it upon himself to travel over 500 miles to Michigan Tech University this past summer to take courses in programming. He recognized our team programmer was graduating and moving on the college and that this would be a large loss to the team. He used this time to learn C++ and is now in a major role of programming the robot. In this role, he is also working with a ninth grade student on the programming, so that when he graduates, there is someone to take over.

This fall he was the team leader during our Oakland County Competitive Robotics Association season and played a major role in keeping the 15 new students engaged and active on the team. Usually we lose a few students who find it difficult to get involved. Dean made sure the new students had assignments and opportunities to stay active. Through his leadership, the team earned several trophies including spirit, engineering excellence, quality, and the County Championship. This leadership role is usually reserved for a senior, but Dean demonstrated he was ready to take on the assignment through his contributions to the team in his first two year.

Dean is always there when the team is involved in community activities. He was the leader in our Relay for Life, Halloween Hoot, Arts and Apples parking lot fundraiser, and displaying the robot and two elementary school science fairs. We can always count on him to enthusiastically wear his team shirt to spread the message.

This year our team invited another local high school to join us, since they do not have a team. This makes the logistics of designing, programming, and building more complicated. Dean again took a leadership role in making the Stoney Creek students feel welcome and engaged. He has a great working relationship with the Stoney Creek co-captain, Eduardo Cerame. Hopefully this collaborative effort will lead to helping Stoney Creek form their own team in the future.

Our team also participated in three summer events and Dean was there for all three. We competed in the TARDAC robotics competition at Oakland University, the Michigan MARC event, and the Indiana Robotics Invitational. This is a big commitment for a student who also plays soccer and Dean never complained. He's always there when we need someone to load the equipment, demonstrate the robot, and talk to students about the team.

One of his proudest moments was last year when he met Dean Kamen at the Lansing, MI, district event. He received an autograph and also had Mr. Kamen sign our team banner. Dean is proud that they share the same first name.