



Coconino High School *FIRST* Robotics

FRC Team 2486 · The CocoNuts · Flagstaff, AZ



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: COCONUTS HONORED WITH 2020 REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S AWARD; *FIRST* DEAN'S LIST

On April 29, 2020 at a virtual award show put on by *FIRST*, the CocoNuts *FIRST* Robotics Team of Coconino High School earned their 9th Regional Chairman's Award. Two sophomore members of the CocoNuts were also honored. Noah Temprendola was named a Finalist for the *FIRST* Dean's List, and Oscar Landa Samano, a semifinalist.

Due to the continuing health crisis, all *FIRST* events were suspended in March, and the CocoNuts have not yet had a chance to compete with this year's robot. However, many awards require essays that are submitted weeks prior to the competition, and this is what *FIRST* used to determine the winners to these awards.

The FIRST Dean's List honors student leaders who have led their Teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission. These students have also achieved personal technical expertise and accomplishment. Noah and Oscar were nominated by the CocoNuts for their outstanding work in our community, efforts in mentoring local teams, volunteering at *FIRST* events, and leadership on the team. As a Finalist, Noah will be considered for the *FIRST* Dean's List Award out of the 120+ other Finalists from around the world. The Dean's List Winners will be announced at the *FIRST* Virtual Showcase Saturday, May 2.



The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious honor in FIRST. It recognizes a team that best represents a model for others to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The Chairman's Award is presented to the team that is judged to have the most significant, measurable impact through its partnerships on its members and community over a sustained period, not just a single build season. The winner is able to demonstrate progress towards FIRST's mission of changing our culture.

The award announcement that was read during the award ceremony states:

"This team has done over 360 outreach events and reached more than 230,000 people in person. Their junkyard robot challenge provides an opportunity for people of all ages to experience a FIRST-like challenge, and their Lunar Rover is instantly recognizable. Their "FLL in a Nutshell" is a comprehensive guide and hands-on professional development for new coaches and their Chairman's Guide has been download more than 10,000 times. The Chairman's Award for the Las Vegas Regional goes to team 2486 the CocoNuts from Flagstaff, AZ!"



Coconino High School *FIRST* Robotics

FRC Team 2486 · The CocoNuts · Flagstaff, AZ



This season alone, the CocoNuts have put in several thousand hours working in the community. Below is a list of just a few things the CocoNuts have done this season:

- Built a ¼ scale Lunar Rover for Flagstaff’s Lunar Legacy celebration. It appeared at the 4th of July Parade, at the Flagstaff Festival of Science, and at innumerable outreach events around Flagstaff and statewide.
- Partnered with NAU and Lowell Observatory to host the Lunar Legacy Robotics Invitational on the anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The tournament featured three different robotics events, field trips to Lowell and the NASA test site in the cinders, and robotics teams from all over the US and as far away as Hong Kong.
- Traveled all over Arizona to run or volunteer at over two dozen *FIRST* events, including Kickoffs, scrimmages, *FIRST* Lego League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge tournaments. The CocoNuts ran one of the largest state Championships for *FIRST* Tech Challenge in the country at NAU in February.
- Taught a workshop for teachers interested in starting *FIRST* Lego League teams and partnered with NAU to train new *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams from Winslow and Show Low.
- Mentored numerous robotics teams in Flagstaff and across Northern Arizona.
- Presented to the Arizona Senate Education Committee about the importance of STEM education.
- Appeared in a short documentary film called “Fireworks, Apple Pie, and Robots” created by the Simons Foundation and Science Sandbox, in collaboration with the Flagstaff Festival of Science, which highlights the power of STEM programs to change lives.
- Competed in the 2019 Arizona *FIRST* Robotics Championship in October, where they were semi-finalists.



The CocoNuts are grateful to everyone who makes what they do possible. They would like to thank parents, mentors, event volunteers, our Coconino High School and Flagstaff Unified School District teachers and administration, our sponsors, and the Flagstaff Community for their continued support of *FIRST* and STEM education.

Below are several photos of the CocoNuts in action from this season.



Coconino High School *FIRST* Robotics

FRC Team 2486 • The CocoNuts • Flagstaff, AZ



Figure 1: The 2019-2020 CocoNuts FIRST Robotics Team of Coconino High School



Figure 2: The CocoNuts presented to the Arizona Senate Education Committee in February on the importance of STEM education.



Coconino High School *FIRST* Robotics

FRC Team 2486 • The CocoNuts • Flagstaff, AZ



Figure 3: The CocoNuts put on the 12th annual FIRST Lego League Tournament at Coconino High School in December



Figure 4: The CocoNuts sponsor and run the FIRST Tech Challenge program for all of Arizona. They travel across the state putting on events.

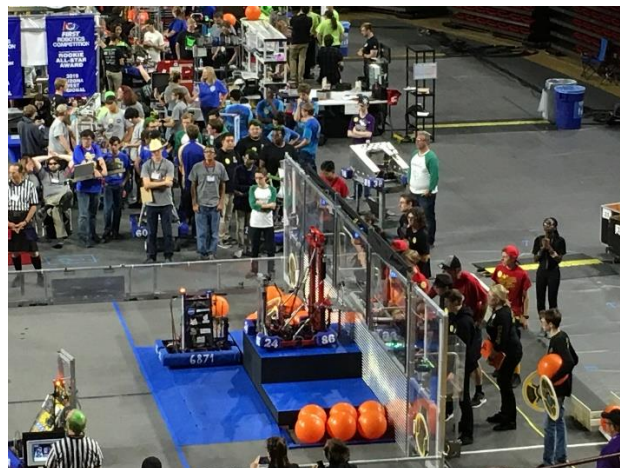


Figure 5: The CocoNuts competed in October at the Arizona FIRST Robotics Championship with their 2019 Robot "Pluto."

FLAGSTAFF'S LUNAR LEGACY



The CocoNuts' ¼ scale Lunar Rover made an appearance at several Flagstaff events this year to celebrate Lunar Legacy. **1:** The awards for the Lunar Legacy Robotics Invitational; **2:** 4th of July demo at Lowell Observatory; **3:** The welcome committee for Apollo Astronaut Charlie Duke's Keynote for the Flagstaff Festival of Science; **4:** Flagstaff 4th of July Parade; **5:** Flagstaff 4th of July Parade; **6:** CHS Homecoming



Coconino High School *FIRST* Robotics

FRC Team 2486 • The CocoNuts • Flagstaff, AZ



About the CocoNuts:

The CocoNuts Robotics Team from Coconino High School in Flagstaff, Arizona, is the first robotics team of its kind in Northern Arizona. Since its founding in 2007, the CocoNuts have been the recipients of such prestigious awards as the Inspire Award, Engineering Inspiration Award and nine-time winners of the Regional Chairman’s Award. The CocoNuts spend countless hours working in their community to spread the excitement of *FIRST* Robotics, mentor many of the younger *FIRST* teams in Flagstaff and the surrounding areas, run professional development programs for new robotics coaches, and host the Northern Arizona *FIRST* Lego League and Arizona *FIRST* Tech Challenge Programs. Visit www.team2486.org for more information and to get involved. **GO NUTS!**

About *FIRST*®

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® [Robotics Competition](#) for high-school students, *FIRST*® [Tech Challenge](#) for 7th-12th graders, *FIRST*® [LEGO® League](#) for 9 to 14-year-olds, and *FIRST*® [LEGO® League Junior](#) for 3 to 9-year-olds. Gracious Professionalism™ is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org.

Coaches:

Christine Sapio
csapio@fusd1.org
928-773-8200 x 6493

Dave Thompson
david.thompson@nau.edu
928-523-5575

The CocoNuts are proudly sponsored by:



The CocoNuts are partners with:



And the generous and continuing support of the Flagstaff Community.