

Duel Master Volunteer 2012 – Nomination Submission Form

Name of person being nominated: Thomas Zawislak

Nominee Team #: 2013018(permanent number TBA)

Name of person submitting nomination: Thomas Fogwell

Describe why the person being nominated should be recognized through this award (600 words or less):

Our Mentor is a long-time FIRST volunteer. We were first infected by his enthusiasm at a FIRST tournament twelve short months ago where he was the game announcer. In the past twelve months, we have learned that he is passionate about FIRST, truly cares about those around him and displays the utmost modesty. He continues to give to the program long after his children have graduated from FIRST. He is a smart, organized and natural leader who inspires students and parents alike to follow his good example and contribute to the FIRST program.

Our Mentor has BIG ideas, but uses little words and simple explanations to help us accomplish them as a team. With his mentorship, our ideas become reality. He prioritizes FUN! From the tournaments and workshops he runs, to the meetings he supports, he keeps the conversations light and the mood cheerful. He encourages volunteers, mentors and students to find their own solutions even if they weren't in the original game plan. He treats the students as equals and really values their advice and opinion. He encourages the students to step up to new challenges and even become mentors themselves. He prompts others to step into the spotlight and gives them accolades for their accomplishments. We would not have started our FRC team if it had not been for his support. At all levels, more students are excited about engineering as a direct result of his efforts.

Our Mentor LISTENS! He really wants to hear what the students, parents and coaches have to say. He is equally comfortable in a conversation with a room full of corporate CEOs as he is with a gathering of students. Late at night he continues on for FIRST creating websites, spreadsheets, and promotional material. Hardly a day passes by that he does not go out into the community to solicit sponsorship of the FIRST programs. He regularly meets with teachers, principals, and superintendants to garner support for our FIRST programs and our students

Our Mentor is also the President of a community organization dedicated to the protection and improvement of the environment. The organization works with local government and community leaders to maintain high standards of natural resource management and seeks to make the area a better place to live and work. He is a GREAT role model for the students, parents, and other volunteers. He does everything with a smile and is always the first to raise his hand to volunteer. When we started our FRC team, in spite of his other commitments, he became our first mentor. He only has positive things to say about the competitors. “We can make it work” is his favorite saying when something goes a little wrong. “Not a problem” is what he says when it gets really bad! He IS Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition!

Unless he is wearing the zebra shirt of a referee, Our Mentor prefers colorful Hawaiian shirts. His line dancing skills are unmatched and he keeps the crowd enthused on Edison at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Of course, Our Mentor is a FIRST Volunteer! Besides mentoring our FRC team, he is also the Delaware FIRST LEGO League Master of Ceremonies, a St. Louis World FIRST Tech Challenge Announcer, a Mid-Atlantic Robotics FRC Referee, and a Pennsylvania FIRST Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner. Green MASHine enthusiastically nominates for the 2012 “Michael Wade” Duel Master Volunteer Award, Our Mentor, Thomas Zawislak!