



FIRST[®] **WASHINGTON**

"The sport of science, technology and teamwork."



IMPACT REPORT **2021 - 2022**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanks to you, teamwork, energy, innovation, enthusiasm and sheer determination were the key strengths to last season. In the midst of COVID restrictions and uncertainty on how our competitions would proceed, your unyielding commitment to our program, students, volunteers and community helped deliver success.

Highlights of our accomplishments:

- *Delivered in-person and remote events in an uncertain environment.*
- *Developed a strong foundation in eastern Washington.*
- *Built on our DEI focus and student advisory council.*
- *Brought amazing STEM competitions back to our communities.*
- *Worked with our new and loyal donors to help us continue programs and STEM advocacy.*
- *Our devoted volunteers continued to inspire the students and all of us in this time of transition.*

It's an exciting time for FIRST Washington, we are thankful for your continued support, generosity and gracious professionalism.

With gratitude,

Erica Beckstrom
President - FIRST Washington

ABOUT FIRST WASHINGTON



Mission

Our mission is to inspire diverse young people to participate in team-based STEM programs supported by a knowledgeable volunteer community.

Why *FIRST*?

FIRST Washington engages students ages 6-18 in exciting mentor-based programs that build STEM skills, inspire innovation, and foster well-rounded life skills including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

Students who participate in *FIRST* are almost three times more likely (70% vs 25%) than comparison students to declare a major in Engineering and Sciences.

Female students who participate in *FIRST* are five times (59% vs 12%) more likely to declare major in Engineering and Sciences than comparison group.

What's Different?

The COVID-19 Pandemic provided us an opportunity to rethink how we can scale to support the teams of today and tomorrow. With that in mind, we:

- Opened a satellite office in Eastern Washington, which is the new home of our Director of Development and Community Relations, and our new Outreach Manager.
- Hired a Volunteer Success and Engagement Manager, to lead the growth of our essential community of volunteers.

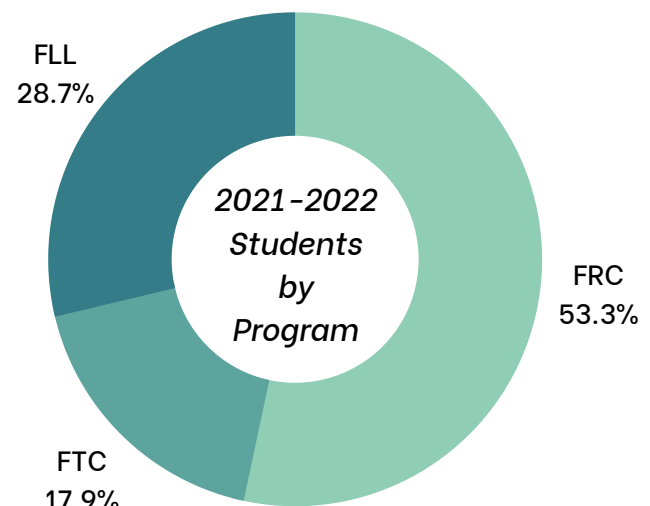
We're excited to see the impact this investment will continue to have in our community, and we are looking ahead to another year of inspiring students to become STEM leaders of the future!

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact

Prior to the start of our 2020 competitive season, *FIRST* Washington had **9,314 registered youth** across all four programs. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of many of our FRC events, preventing high school students the opportunity to compete.

With student safety top-of-mind, we returned to our 2021-2022 season with hybrid competitions - allowing remote and in-person competition options for all programs, which resulted in **6,514 registered youth**.

We continue to grow our youth involvement to pre-pandemic standards and beyond, so that no student is left behind.



FIRST WASHINGTON PROGRAMS



51%

of FIRST Washington female alumni declared a major in computer science or engineering

— Brandeis University, Center for Youth and Communities

Number of FIRST Alumni currently employed in STEM fields?

60%

— Brandeis University, Center for Youth and Communities

FIRST LEGO League Explore

FIRST LEGO League Explore is an exciting opportunity for budding young scientists' grades 2-4. This program encompasses core concepts from the other FIRST Washington programs to inspire, excite, and introduce youths to the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math.

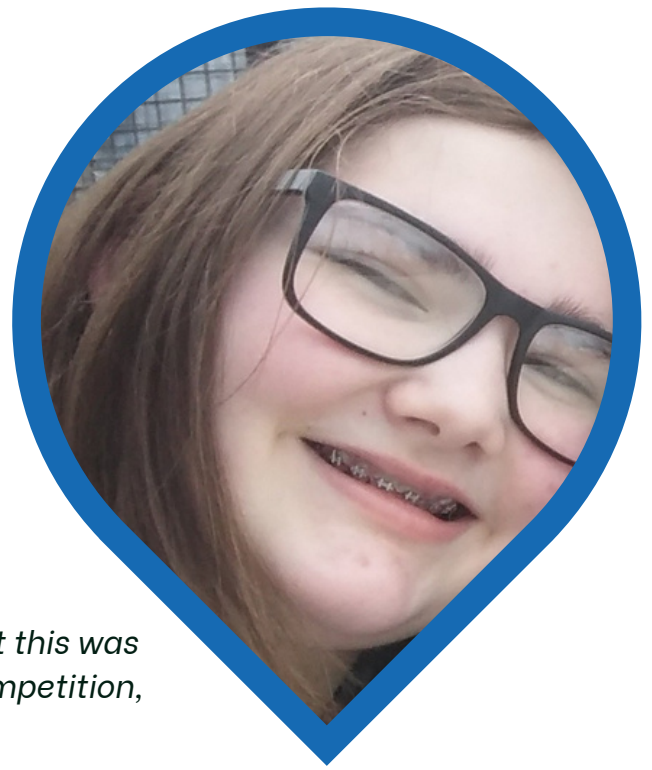
FLL Explore teams are formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adults that mentor the students who build models and create posters to display what they have learned. FLL Explore is designed to build interest in science and technology through a real-world challenge that can be solved using research, critical thinking, and imagination.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

FIRST LEGO League Challenge is a learning opportunity designed for kids grades 4-8 to tackle real-world challenges. FLL Challenge is the largest program within FIRST Washington, with nearly 700 teams each year. Students get to brainstorm, solve problems, build, and compete using their creations.

Teams are formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adults who organize and mentor the students, while the youths work on the challenge. Students work as a team to research a problem within their community and prepare a presentation about it, and build a robot to complete missions.

ELIZABETH'S STORY



I'm from Spokane valley. I got started when I found out that my high school was going to start a Robotics club. When I walked in I fell in love with the club and I stuck with it.

My first impression when I walked into the room was that this was just gonna be playing with Legos and it wasn't a real competition, now I think it's so much fun.

Competitions bring excitement and entertainment, and the people I work with and get to compete against are wonderful. I would say that FIRST Washington impacted me by giving me a chance to break out of my comfort zone and teach me about technology and how to build things. I would like to use my skills and experiences to help animals, like making prosthetics that for dogs with missing limbs.

My advice to the girls who are unsure about robotics is try it out! Because even if you're not sure about it or feel like people are going to pick on you over it, you will benefit from trying new things.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)

FIRST Tech Challenge is a learning opportunity designed for kids grades 7-12. With a new challenge every year, students must design, build, program robots to compete with and against other teams.

FTC teams can be formed in schools or other youth-based organizations and are led by two or more adult mentors and to help educate and guide them in the challenge they've been given.

Mentors guide the students in raising funds, designing, and maintaining the team brand, and working with their community to earn awards.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)

FIRST Robotics Competition is designed for youths grades 9-12 and combines the excitement of sports with the rigor of science and technology.

With strict rules, limited resources and time, students are tasked with the challenge of creating an industrial-size robot to compete; they must build and program the robot to compete and cooperate with other teams.

FRC teams can be formed in schools or other youth based organizations and are led by two or more adult mentors to help educate and guide the students in the challenge they've been given.

MIHIR'S STORY



Participating in FIRST Washington programs has helped me discover myself on more levels than I could ever have imagined.

When I started, I was so introverted. I joined robotics as a programmer, all I did was program and I was happy with that.

I let nobody in, and it was just me and my music. I had a few select friends, and I was happy if I could just shove myself in a corner and work.

But I soon learned what leadership is. You don't just do all of the work yourself; you delegate and grow. And you don't just grow yourself, you help others grow too.

I learned about equity and inclusion, and I learned how even us student could even begin to solve some of the problems in the world. I learned to fight for what I believe in, and I did. I joined organizations like the FIRST Washington Student DEI Committee, menstrual equity, LGBTQ+ of FIRST and even started the PNW Business Alliance.

I have become such a better problem solver, more grounded in my ideas and coming up with more of them. I have become more professional. And those mentors and adults which once scared me, soon became my greatest allies.

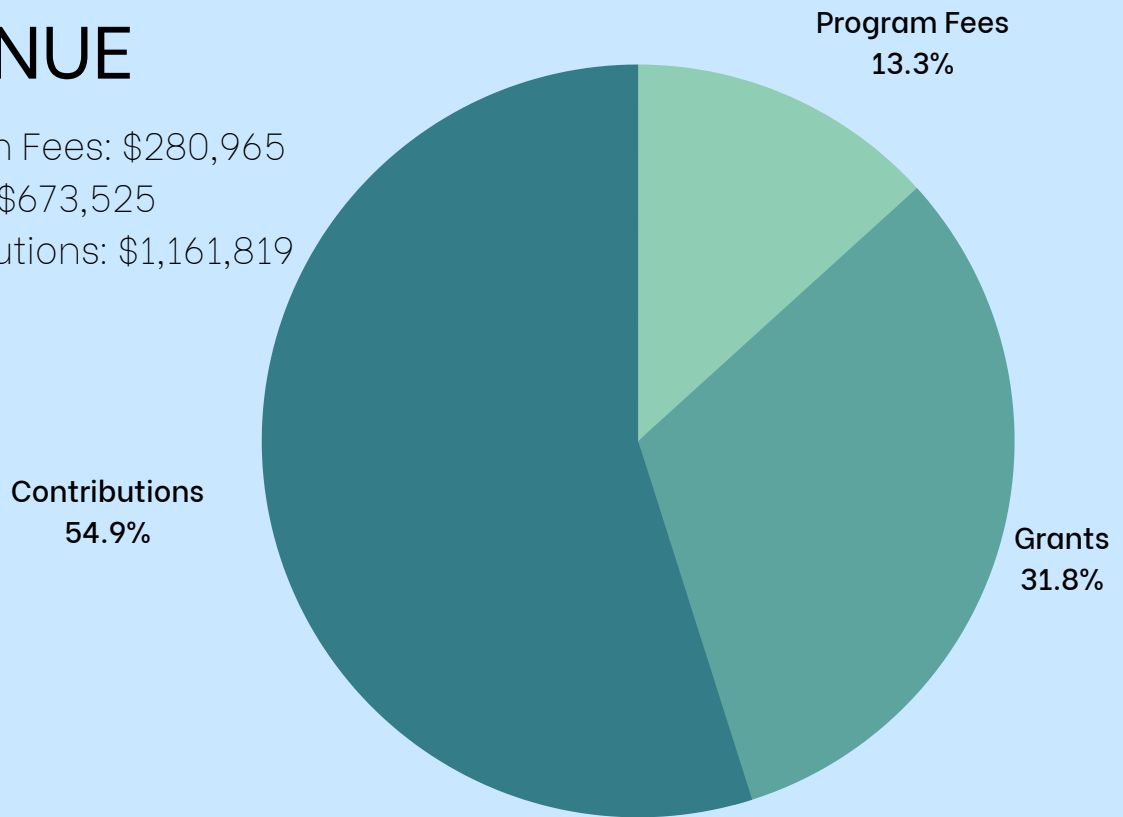
When I grow up, I really want to be a CEO. There are so many problems in companies that I would love to fix. Get people better pay, ensure that people feel safe and comfortable at work and genuinely find that balance between happy employees and satisfied customers. I want to give back, and advocate for issues that are important.

I have grown so much more confident in my abilities through FIRST. I am making my voice louder and speaking up not just for myself, but for others as well.

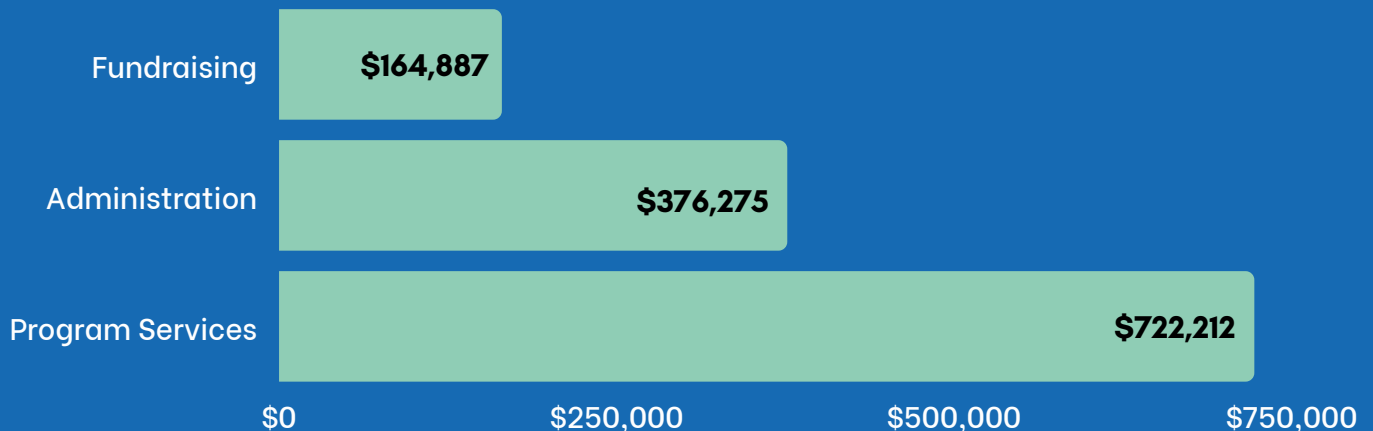
FINANCIAL DATA

REVENUE

- Program Fees: \$280,965
- Grants: \$673,525
- Contributions: \$1,161,819



EXPENSES





FIRST **WASHINGTON**

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My favorite part of the *FIRST* Washington is how inclusive it is for students of all abilities and backgrounds. *FIRST* Washington is a safe space for all kids to learn and have fun together.

-Ayla D., *FIRST* Washington Alum & Volunteer



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