

A Simple Green Shirt

It may be just a green tee shirt that FIRST robotics Team 781 wears, but over the years, we have found that it is not just a tee shirt, and two recent events brought that home even more.

A distinctive shade of green, Irish Green to be exact, the shirt has come to symbolize a number of things that are the essence of what it means to be on Team 781, the Kinetic Knights.

On one sleeve you will find the FIRST logo to remind us that we are part of a bigger movement to encourage kids worldwide about the importance and role of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

On the other sleeve is a Canadian flag to remind us that we represent our community and our country so our behavior not only reflects on our team but also on others we care about.

The list of donors and sponsors on our back, lets us know who has our back. They have shown us that they believe in us and support us. Their generosity allows us to do what we do and we owe them our thanks.

But even more than what the shirt looks like, is what the shirt means. When we wear that shirt, we are part of the history of everyone else who has worn that shirt and the reputation that they have built.

At competitions, those green shirts can be seen not only in our own pit working on our robot, but in other teams' pits helping them, lending tools and parts, handing out safety glasses, cleaning up the stands, showing visitors around, encouraging others to act safely, cheering on everyone, clapping when other teams win, and dancing up a storm.

In the community, you can see those green shirts cleaning up roads, planting trees, helping out a charity fundraisers, running a camp for young kids, organizing and running FLL tournaments, at beach parties, home and garden shows, museums, air shows, parades, and in schools.

Those shirts tell people that someone from Team 781 is there to help. Recently when a long time team volunteer and husband of a mentor passed away, a sea of green showed up at the funeral home to lend our support. When a Jr. FLL tournament organizer had her judges cancel at the last minute, seeing those green shirts show up let her know that things would be okay.

So it may be a simple green shirt, or it may be so much more. Wear it with pride Team 781.

KineticKnights

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