

Ryan Legato

If there's something strange with your robot frame, who you gonna call? Ryan Legato! If there's something weird and you can't play the game, who you gonna call? Ryan Legato! If your gear box's broke and it don't look good, who you gonna call? Ryan Legato! He's the ghostbuster of our team taking on any presented challenge and conquering it to the best of his ability. His devotion to robotics is evident through his hard-work, expertise, and leadership.

Ryan's passion for FIRST goes beyond his own body's capacity causing it to radiate onto those around him. Ryan has acquired the role of being the "go to" senior on the mechanical build part of the team. As Mrs. Gleason, a mentor on the team states "he's a gear box technician extraordinaire!" Ryan always has good ideas and is confident with the parts he builds and the suggestions he has to make. Having been part of FRC for 4 years Ryan knows how to operate all of the machines and tools used to build the robot and anyone on the team would agree that you can trust him to get jobs done and make a part right the first time.

In order for a team to be successful it's important that everyone work as a team and be able to cooperate with each other. Ryan knows this and does an admirable job of bringing everyone together. He's friendly and has endless tolerance for other team members. Ryan even took on the role of "mentor" when he taught the freshmen on the team how to work the tools and gave them the basics of being on an FRC team. "Being a freshmen and getting help from an upper-classman was really cool, it made me feel like I was a part of the team," recalls Alex Garrigo. He knows how to motivate others with his enthusiastic personality. Not only does he stay positive but he knows when to be

professional and keeps his non-robotic obligations outside of team activities. His easy-going attitude and sense of humor is a magnet for those that need help because he's more than willing to explain how a machine works, or stay extra hours in order to get things done.

Ryan's dedication to robotics can be seen through his hard work; quite often, he stays at robotics for over 8 hours working diligently in order to help make our team a success. His excitement for robotics is quite evident. Ryan has put much time in getting the word of FIRST out to the community. He's gotten involved and has volunteered at FLL tournaments and has participated in team efforts in order to spread robotics. He's played an active role in parades, a triathlon the team hosted, and at a summer festival booth where the team's 2009 robot was demonstrated and Ryan interacted with the children while educating them and making balloon animals.

Ryan's passion doesn't just stop with the community; he remembers the 2009 Michigan State Championship very distinctly. He recalls during the finals last year when one of the motors on the robot burnt out and the only replacement was in one of the mentor's cars still mounted on the practice bot in the parking lot. Ryan had to run all the way to the snowy parking lot between the final matches, and when he got back from sprinting about a mile for the motor, he returned only to find that they didn't need it anymore. Although he was exhausted from running, he was happy to know the robot was going to be okay. His eagerness to fix the robot and getting it to work is his top priority. This is just one of several instances where Ryan has shown passion, responsibility, and ability to take action. Being apart of an FRC team has inspired Ryan so much that he plans on attending Michigan Tech where he will major in mechanical engineering.

Ryan truly is the ghostbuster of our team and more. Alex remembers last year during competitions when the robot wouldn't work and when no one could find the problem. "Somehow Ryan managed to find it almost every single time." Ryan is an outstanding student. He knows how to take charge and utilize his expertise so he can contribute his best skills to the team.