

Amal likes to challenge herself and others. Being an Egyptian Muslim, she faces adversity everyday. However, she has shown tremendous strength, compassion and maturity beyond her years in response. She stands tall despite standing out. Her experiences drive her to make the world better. Little did she know that challenging herself to join FRC1511 would lead her to finding her life's passion.

It all began when she tried out to be a Chairman's Presenter her freshman year. She was not selected, but her interview skills and knowledge of FIRST impressed the mentors. Still wanting to help with the Chairman's effort, she spent countless hours learning everything about making the Chairman's video. This was the spark that grew her passion for film production. The next year, she lead the Chairman's video effort, challenging herself with difficult, game-themed transitions and long shots throughout the school. The school's media specialist took notice and offered her a job, which includes producing the school's morning announcements where Amal promotes FIRST! She has taken film classes and familiarized herself with video editing software, including Adobe Premiere Pro, which she asked for her birthday.

In 2015, she won the National PTA Reflections Award of Merit and placed 4th in the US for her video, Acceptance (<https://youtu.be/l73EvNNtIOk>). It was shown at the awards ceremony in DC! Her entrepreneurial and creative spirit has motivated her to pursue a career as a film director so that she can tell stories from around the world to raise cultural awareness.

Amal is not afraid to put herself out there, take a risk, and try new things. She hit the ground running in her freshman year: joined 1511's Leadership group, was elected Media Coordinator, helped create a scouting system, and was Human Player! As a sophomore, she was drive team coach and a (winning) Chairman's presenter. As a junior, she is Strategy Lead and a Chairman's presenter. She knows how to use all the tools and machines in the shop, fabricating many robot parts over the years.

She also leads preseason trainings and team building activities like a 4-week Mock Build Season and mousetrap cars. Amal has volunteered at 21 robot demos, community services, and FLL events. She organized a team fundraiser and a visit to a local senior center. The last 3 years she has been volunteer coordinator for our Week 0 event. To promote FIRST in our inner city schools, Amal organized a robot demo to start a FLL team at School 17. She is also working with a school principal in Egypt to start an FRC team there next season!

Her performance on the team matches her efforts in school. This year, she took 2 AP courses, making high honor roll. She will graduate with an advanced diploma!

Not surprising, Amal plans to mentor or start her own team to pay back what she has gotten from FIRST. She said she wants her children to join FIRST so that they grow up with FIRST ideals.

FIRST's values define the type of leader Amal is: diplomatic, open-minded, and fostering a welcoming work environment. She is responsible, being on time and never dropping the ball on

her tasks. This has helped her create great relationships with her mentors and teachers. And she has created deep bonds with her teammates.

Amal set a new challenge for herself by advocating for STEM education funding and policies, including STEM grants for women and minorities. She attended FIRST National Advocacy Conference in DC, and met locally with representatives, articulately discussing these policies. Since those meetings, the NY reps wrote letters to support a \$250k grant for NY FIRST teams, and the Every Student Succeeds Act was passed federally!

Amal's passion for FIRST is undeniable. She credits 1511 for her successes, but it is her drive and her skills that lead to her success. She is a natural born leader, using 1511 and FIRST as her platform from which to launch into an amazing future full of opportunities and equality.