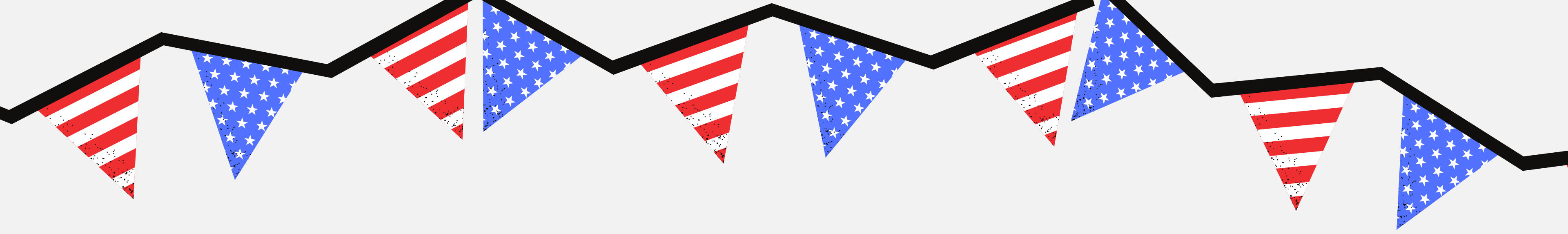




# ADVOCacy in A nUTSHELL

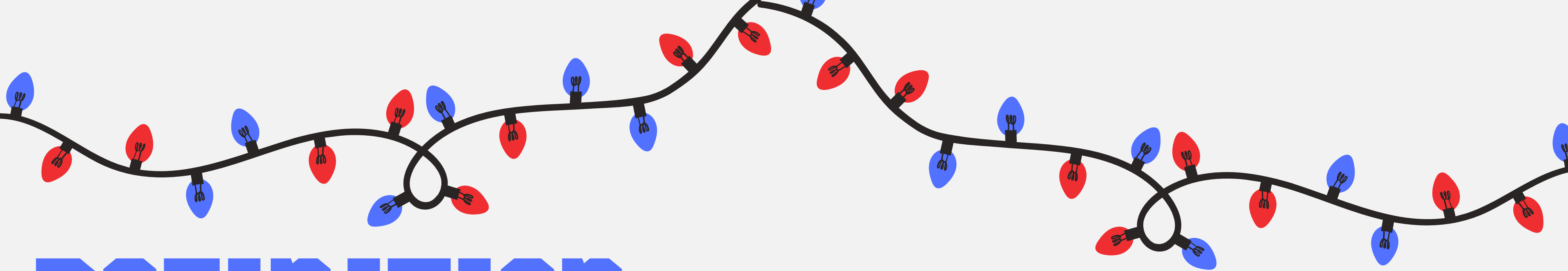
How you and your *FIRST* team  
can get involved!





**WHAT DO YOU THINK  
OF WHEN WE SAY  
advocacy?**



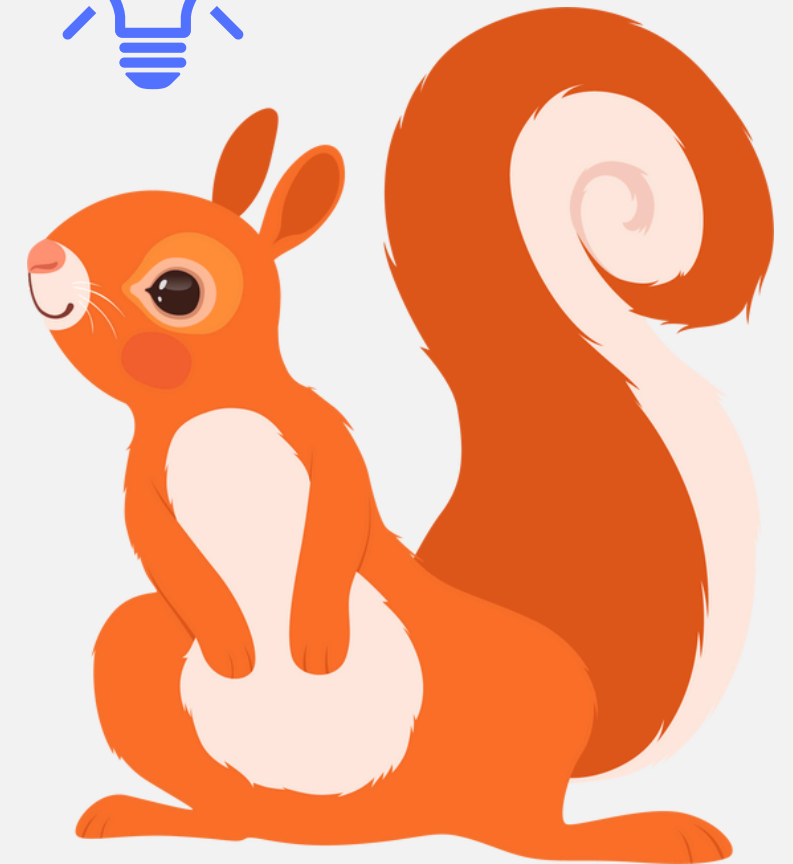


# DEFINITION:

**ad•vo•ca•cy**

*/'advəkəsē/ noun*

**active support of an idea or cause  
etc.; especially the act of asking or  
arguing for something**



# THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF ADVOCACY

1.

Local:  
Your city, county  
and school board.

2.

State:  
Your state capital  
and legislators.

3.

National:  
Washington D.C,  
House of  
Representatives,  
and Senate.



# **OUR EXPERIENCE WITH ADVOCACY**

**We are advocating because we want to further, grow, and expand STEM education efforts nationwide. Our specific goal is to make STEM more inclusive to specific populations who are under represented in these fields.**

**National Advocacy Conference:**  
Student Advocacy for STEM in Washington, D.C.

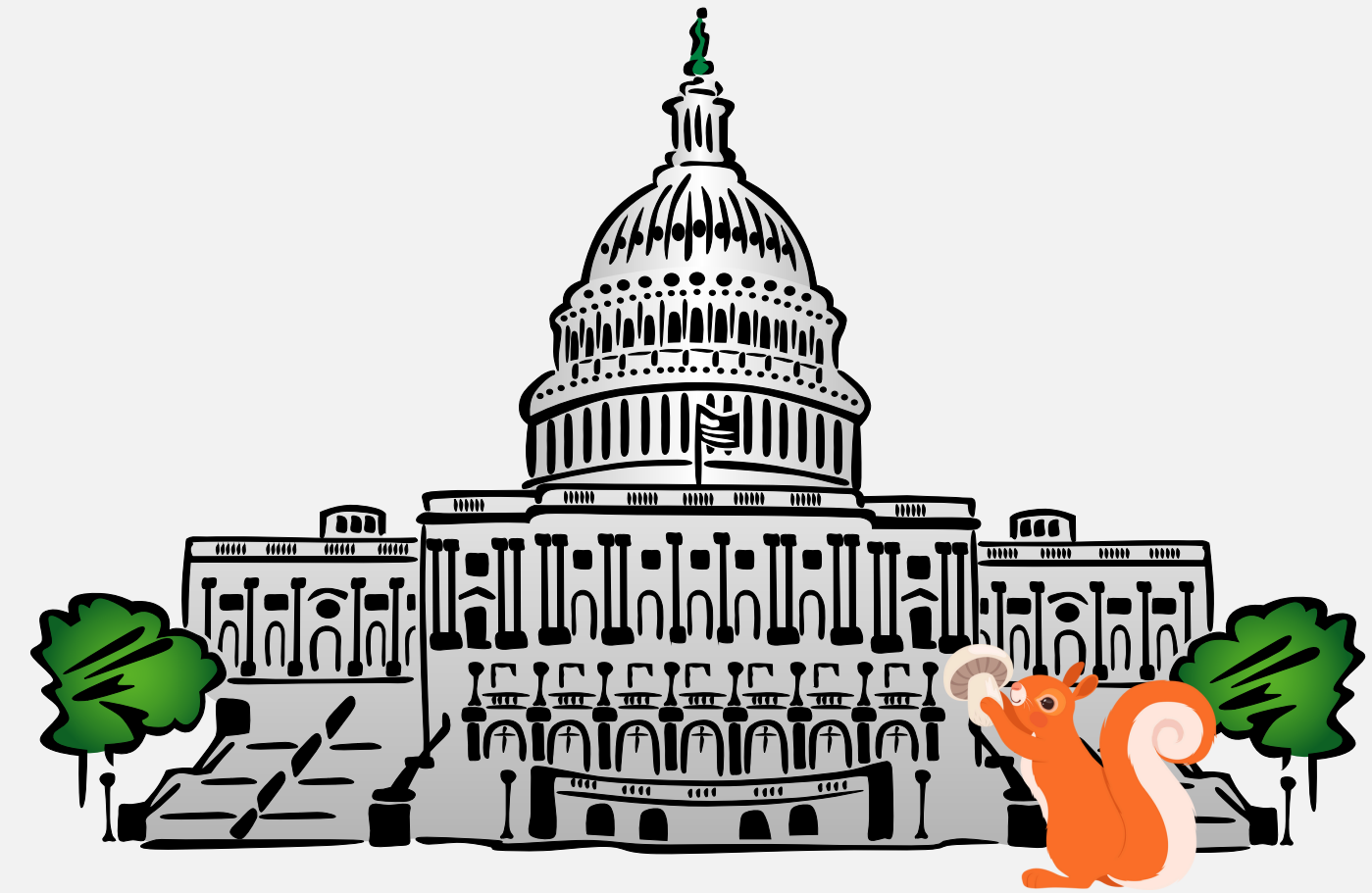
- We presented to the staff of Senators and Representatives

**Arizona Advocacy Conference:**

- We advocated to our state level and district representatives in Arizona



# WHAT DID WE ADVOCATE FOR?



## EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

- Provides funding to school programs, like robotics
- Was originally passed to be funded to 1.6 billion dollars and was only funded to 1.22 as of 2022

## CHIPS ACT

- Provides grants to non-profit STEM programs and hands on learning.
- Brings innovation and technology creation back to the USA
- Encourages the next gen to get involved in STEM
- Invests in nanotechnology, clean energy, quantum computing and artificial intelligence

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS

- Advocated for a quarter of one percent of DOD funding to go to STEM programs
- A quarter of one percent of the DOD's 841.4 billion dollars is around 2 billion dollars





**Those are the things we  
advocated for!**

But that's not the only thing that you  
can advocate for!



**So where do you  
start?**





**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!**





# WHAT ARE YOU ADVOCATING FOR?

What are issues you  
face?

- Is there a group you want to impact?
- Do you want to receive funding for your team or advocate for funding for underfunded teams?

Build a goal around  
your issue.







# HOW TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

- Consistency is key
  - Persistent but not overbearing
- Do your homework
  - Gather background information
- Be clear and knowledgeable
- Be professional and show off the skills you have gained through robotics





# some EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO ADVOCATE FOR

## School Board

- Funding
- Create teams
- Build spaces

## State Gov.

- Funding for STEM programs
- Increasing teacher stipends

## City Council

- Funding for STEM programs
- Teacher stipends
- Increased support for programs

## Federal Gov.

- Funding for STEM programs
- Increased support for programs



**HOW Has  
advocacy  
impacted  
us?**





# WHY SHOULD THIS MATTER TO YOU?

- Advocacy is a powerful tool. Not just for advocating for STEM Education or robotics, but for other things as well.
- It helps you learn how to effectively communicate your thoughts.
- It increases confidence.
- It allows you to learn how to advocate for yourself, not just in robotics.



# WHY IS STEM ADVOCACY IMPORTANT TO FIRST?

- STEM education is massively undervalued in the United States
- Advocating for funding for FIRST and FIRST teams helps close the gap.
- With advocacy, we started a program called RezBotics through advocacy efforts
- Like mentioned before, the CHIPS Act provides funding for after school STEM programs like FIRST
- Without the advocacy efforts of students from around the US, that bill may have not been passed.
- That funding is now going to create jobs in the STEM workforce for students like us after high school.





# HOW DO YOU BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR LEGISLATORS?



- Hosted by the Student Association for STEM Advocacy
- Takes place in June in Washington, DC
- Offers a chance to discuss with your national legislators



- Hosted by the CocoNuts
- For Arizona teams exclusively (but that doesn't mean there aren't any in your state!)
- Sometime in the spring session in 2025
- Gives students an opportunity to advocate to their state legislators





**IF YOU GET NOTHING  
ELSE OUT OF THIS,  
BUILD  
RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH YOUR ELECTED  
OFFICIALS and  
STAFF!**



# THANK YOU!



Are there any questions  
we can answer?

## contact us!

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