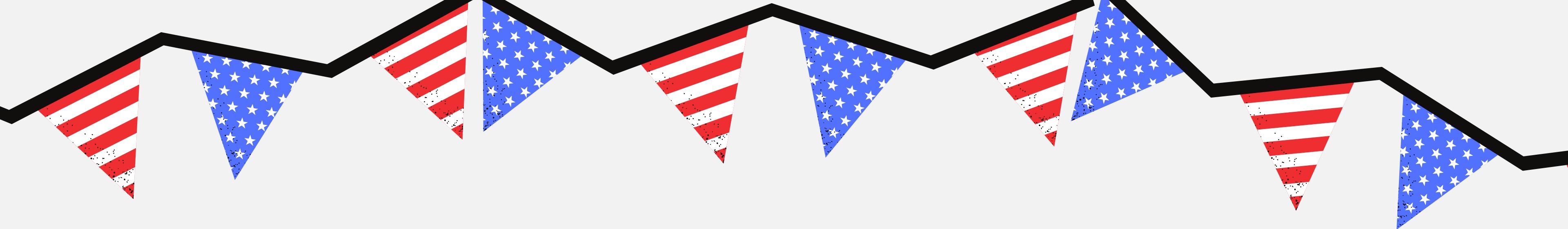


ADVOCACY IN A NUTSHELL

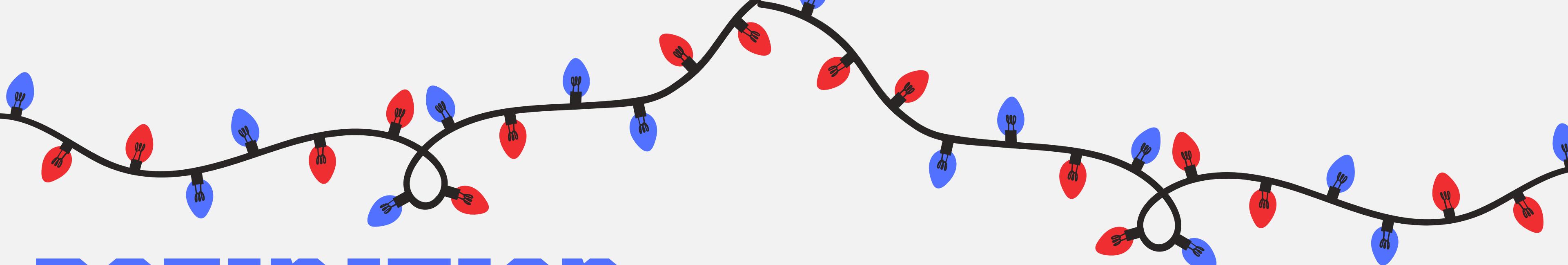
How you and your *FIRST* team
can get involved!





**WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF WHEN we say
advocacy?**





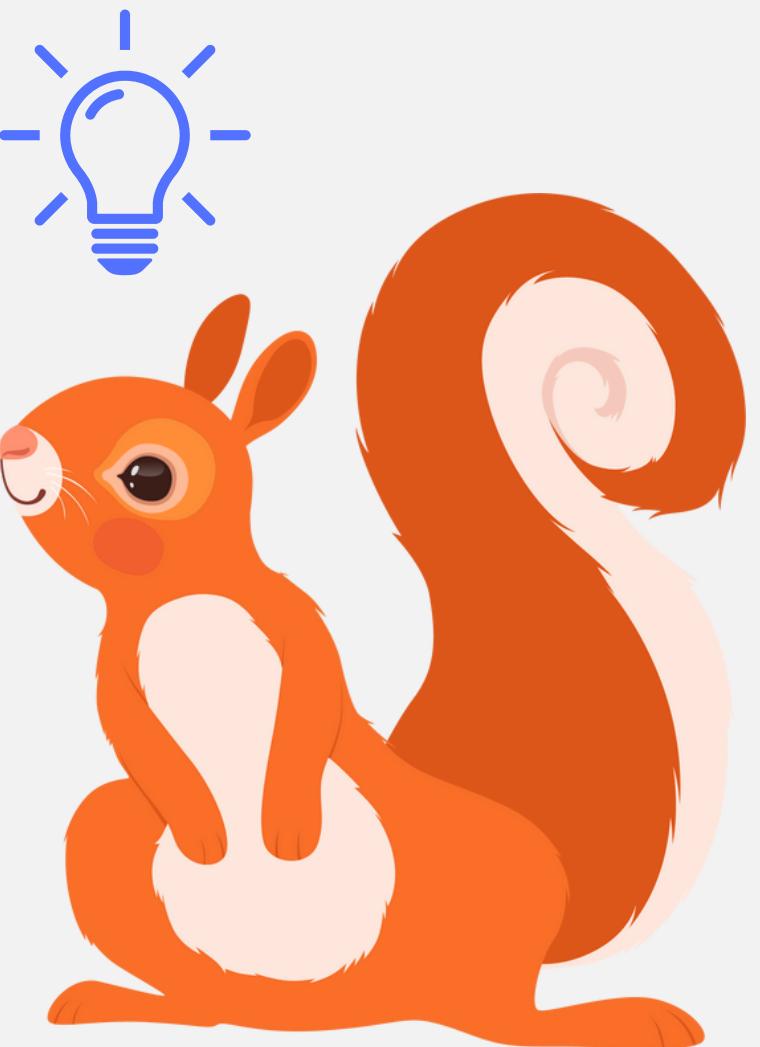
DEFINITION:

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

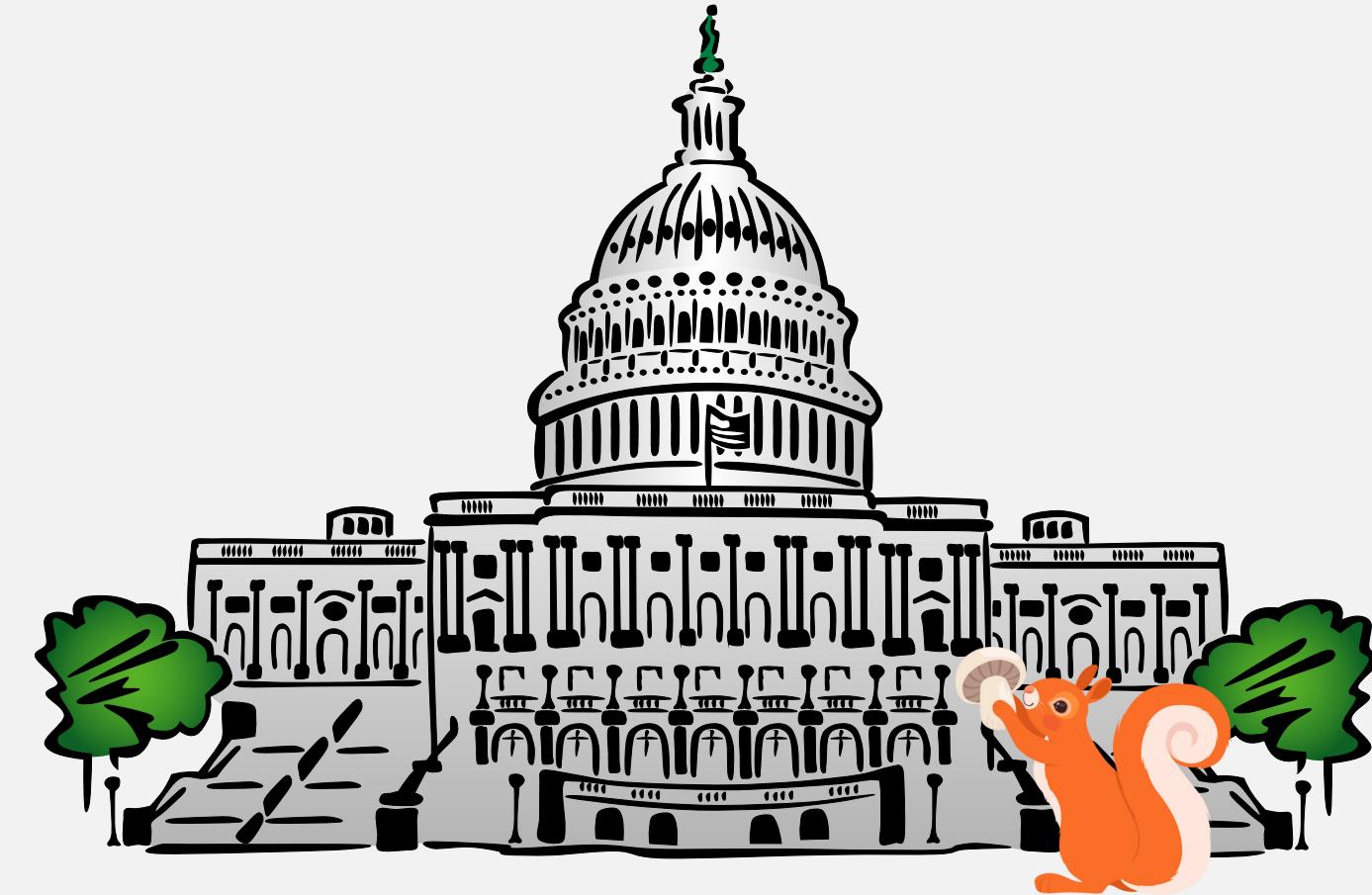
- Provides funding to school programs, like robotics
- Was originally passed to be funded to 1.6 billion dollars and was only funded to 1.22 as of 2022

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!

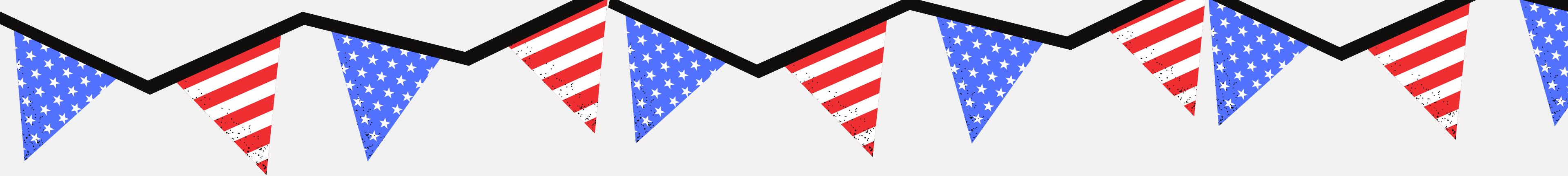
WHAT ARE YOU ADVOCATING FOR?

What are issues you face?

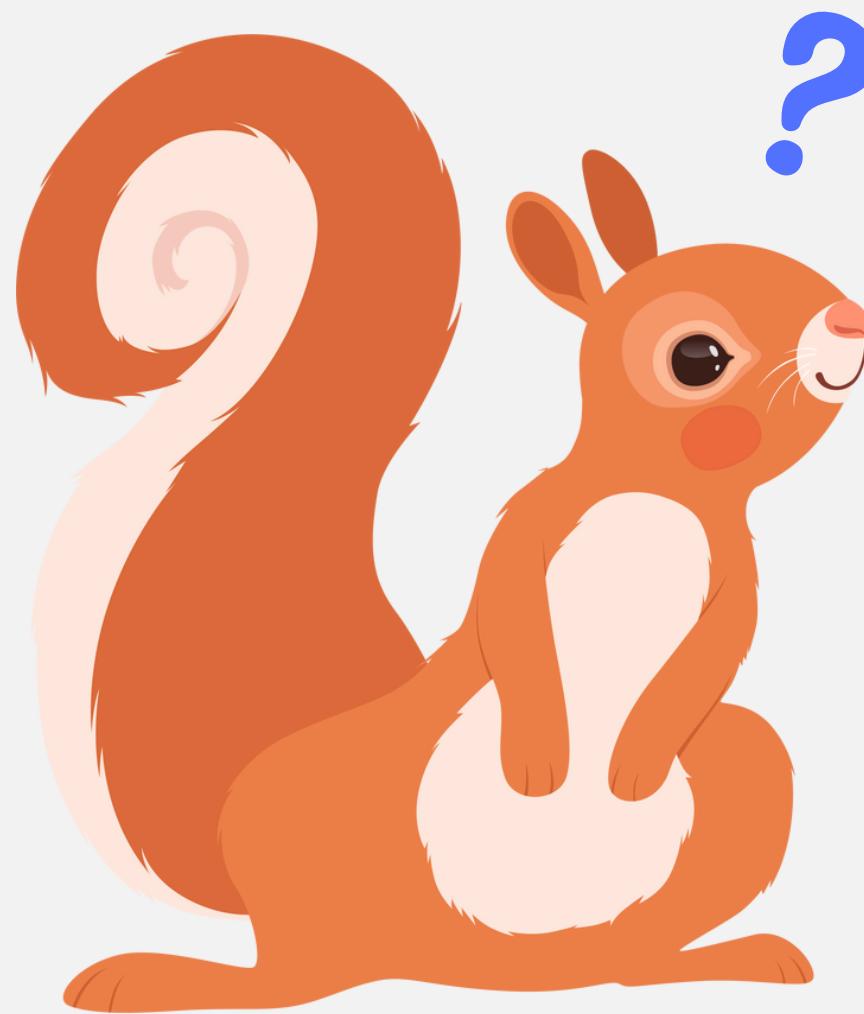
- Is there a group you want to impact?
- Do you want to receive funding for your team or advocate for funding for underfunded teams?

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.

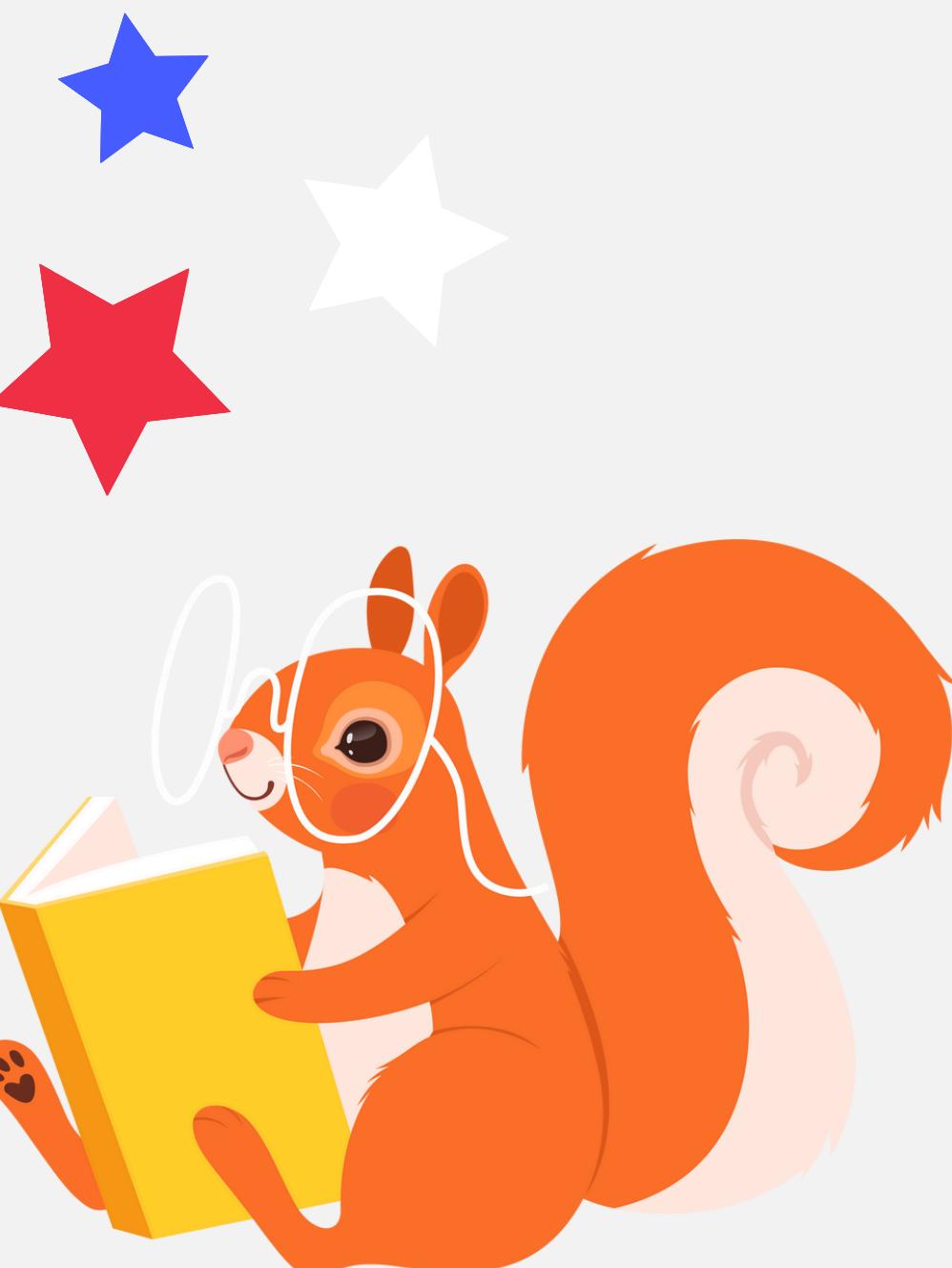
- Funding for STEM programs
- Increasing teacher stipends

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.



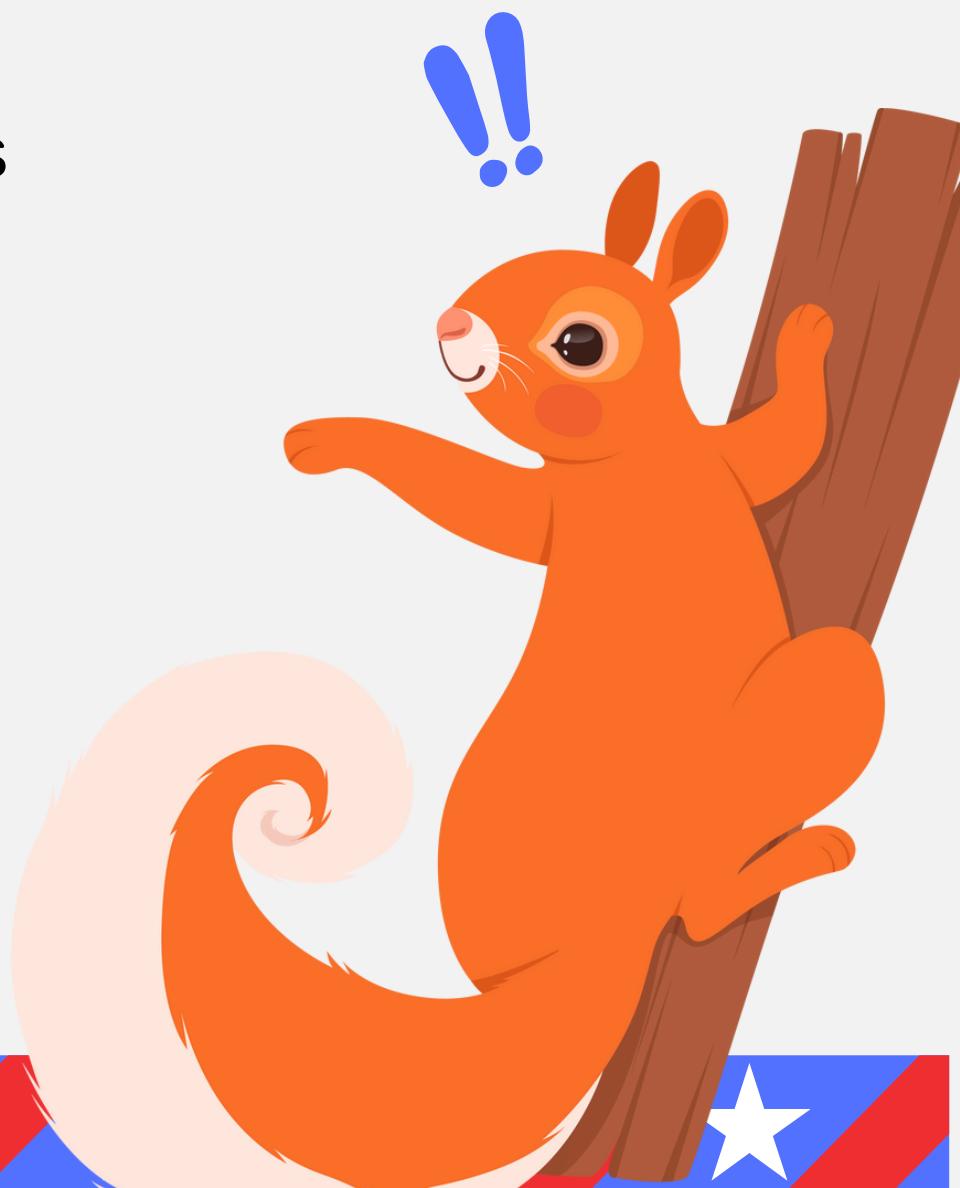
HOW DO YOU BRING IT TO THE attention of your legislators?



- 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

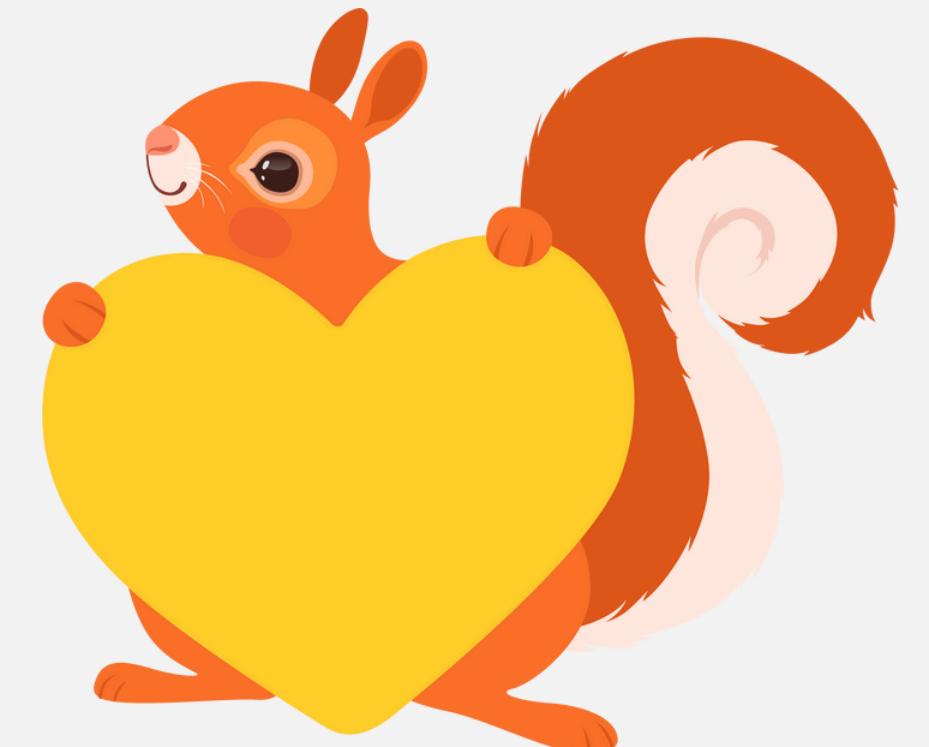




**IF YOU GET nothing
else out of this,
BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH YOUR elected
OFFICIALS and
STAFF!**

THANK YOU!

contact us!



Are there any questions
we can answer?

Coaches: Christine Saipo and
David Thompson

Reach out to:

Csapio@firstpartners.org
or

dthompson@firstpartners.org

Instagram:
[@coconuts2486](https://www.instagram.com/@coconuts2486)