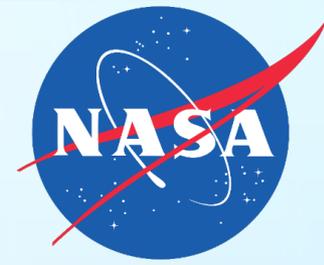




# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!**

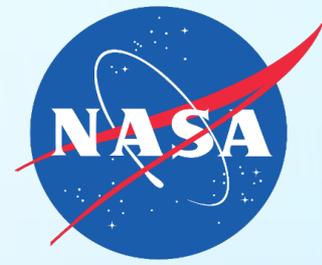
To honor this special week dedicated to the incredible educators, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our NASA ASTRO CAMP Community Partner (ACCP) educators for their unwavering dedication and passion for teaching and inspiring others. In celebration, we have created special slides showcasing each ACCP educator, both formal and informal, who has been with us in 2024. Click the button below to see their highlights and contributions.

The commitment, drive, and passion our educators bring to their work are truly exceptional, and we are honored to have you as part of the ACCP community. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to education. This week and every week let's celebrate you!

*Check out more of our NASA ACCP facilitators [HERE!](#)  
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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

Name:

NASA ACCP Program:

How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

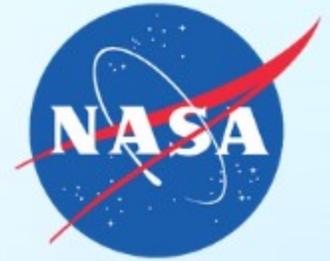
What would you like to share about yourself?



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Nazlı Düven

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

This program has intrigued me for a while. Our team members had the opportunity to meet ACCP program representatives during the Bayou Regional. As a result of the discussions, we joined the team to assist in the expansion into Turkey.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Our official site is in Istanbul/Turkey but other than our city, we continue to help all around the country. Let me tell you a secret, we established the first team of Kosova!

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

I met STEM when I was 13. At first, it was scary but I was the only girl. But that didn't deter me. Robotics is not my only passion. I love doing sports, coding and drinking coffee. In all areas of life, I want to show that women can be successful. My dream is to inspire everyone, especially young girls!



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## NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



### 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Aidan Schneider

**NASA ACCP Program:**

The Phoenixes' NASA ASTRO CAMP in Reno, Nevada

#### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

I became a NASA ASTRO CAMP® Program Educator after interning with NASA and learning about the program at a FIRST Championship in Houston. This experience inspired me to share my passion for space and engineering with my community. I am excited to share that my non-profit organization, The Phoenixes, has successfully taught NASA curriculum and topics to over 3,357 students. Our NASA ASTRO CAMPS are free of charge, so that all students can benefit from this valuable learning opportunity.

#### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

We are based in Reno, Nevada and, with the support of 11+ partner organizations, we offer free NASA ASTRO CAMPS® in various locations in Reno and through Zoom. Partners like the Washoe County Library System, The Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, the University of Nevada Reno Innovation Center, and VoluntYou have provided resources and space for these camps.

#### What would you like to share about yourself?

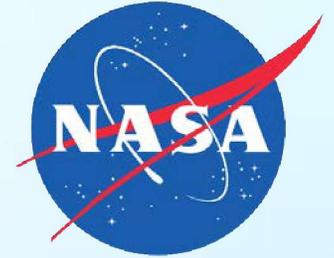
Three years ago, I started The Phoenixes, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting STEM excellence in our community. As part of this initiative, I launched Nevada's first NASA ASTRO CAMP®. Over the years, I've seen this program inspire my generation, students like me who want to be engineers, mathematicians, and scientists, by providing a window into the fascinating world of STEM. I'm thrilled to be part of the NASA ACCP Team, supporting the dreams and ambitions of the next generation of Earth and Space Explorers—the ARTEMIS Generation.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Jessica Halsey

**NASA ACCP Program:**

APW Jr/Sr HS 7th Grade Classes

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

Heard about NASA ACCP through the Rural Educators Network.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Parish, NY

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

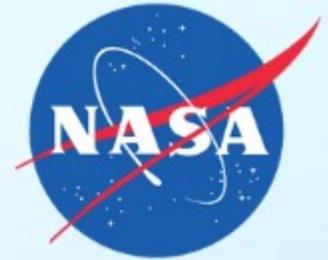
I am extremely passionate about science and love bringing this passion into the classroom. I try to get my students to actually act like scientists in the classroom. I also love Star Wars and cats!



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Muhammed Akif Tobcil

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

I've been fascinated by this program for some time now. I had the chance to connect with representatives from the ACCP program at the Bayou Regional. Following our conversations, we decided to collaborate to help facilitate their expansion into Turkey.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

While our headquarters are located in Istanbul, Turkey, our reach extends far beyond our city borders. We are dedicated to providing assistance throughout the entire country. Now, here's an exciting revelation: we are proud to announce that we have successfully formed the inaugural team in Kosova!

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

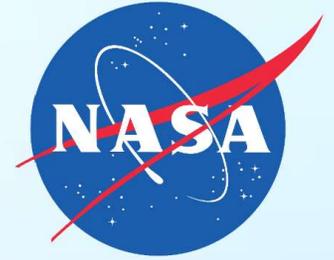
I combined my love of electrical and electronics, which I started when I was a child, with the technical training I received in high school with robotics and coding. After my student life, I realized that teaching what I learned made me happy and I started mentoring at FRC. Now I am both an FRC mentor and I founded my own company to increase the accessibility of FRC in our country.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Bethany Sexner

**NASA ACCP Program:**

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

I was offered the opportunity through our summer camps last year. I enjoyed doing the awesome activities with the campers and am excited to do them again this year.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

246 Dolan Ave Gulfport, MS 39507

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

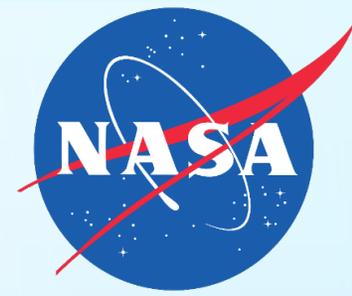
I work at Lynn Meadows Discovery Center as the Education coordinator. I love working with the kids and doing hands-on activities with them. It's amazing to see their faces light up when they have fun learning something new.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Ege YILMAZ

**NASA ACCP Program:**

SPARC Robotics 5665

### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

I have always wanted to participate in a program organized by NASA. When we attended the Bayou Regional with my FRC team, SPARC 5665, we visited the stands of NASA officials and they said they wanted to cooperate with us for the NASA ACCP program. When I thought about what this program would bring to me and how we could spread this program to a wide network with my team, I got very excited and decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

Although our team is based in Istanbul, we want to carry out our work to spread the NASA ACCP program to all cities of the country. By integrating this program into our project called STEAMLINe, we aim to deliver the program to every city in Turkey.

### What would you like to share about yourself?

I finished my 4th year in the SPARC 5665 team, which I joined in 2020, and graduated this year. During this process, I gained a lot of experience and knowledge that I could use to improve myself. I had the opportunity to touch and make a difference in the lives of many people from different parts of Turkey and the world, not only in the STEM field but also with the social responsibility projects we carried out in various fields. While I continue these projects in the SPARC 5665 team, where I will continue as a mentor, I aim to carry out studies together with the NASA ACCP program that will expand people's horizons and provide them with a new perspective by inspiring them.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Loxley Browne

**NASA ACCP Program:**

**Athenian** [BeAthenian.org]

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

The Director of the Marshall Flight Center introduced me to NASA's STEM team.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Our virtual club is available nationally and to military families overseas. Our HQ is located in Huntsville.

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

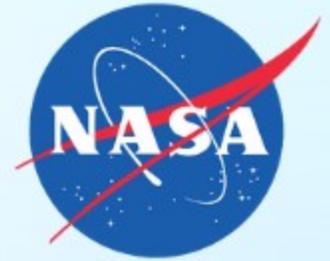
I can “Robin Hood” an arrow, but am known for being a Renaissance Woman. Having an incredible array of skills to work from is the key ingredient of an Athenian!



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Samet Topçu

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

I became part of the ACCP Program as a mentor when I attended the 2024 Bayou regional tournament with my team and had the opportunity to meet representatives from the ACCP Program. Following our discussions, we joined the team.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Our official site is in Istanbul, Turkey, but apart from our city, we continue to assist all around the country.

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

Since childhood, I have been interested in drawing, mechanics, and electronics. I also enjoy many sports like soccer, baseball, and swimming. Besides these interests, teaching has become my greatest passion. To nurture this passion, I actively mentor in my robotics team to ensure it never fades.

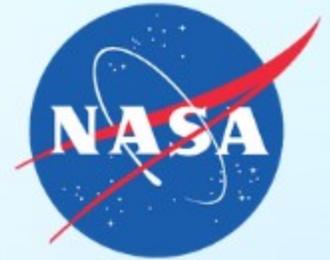


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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Metin Karpat

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

When I went to the 2024 Bayou regional tournament with my team and got to meet representatives of the ACCP Program, I joined the program as a mentor. After our conversations, we became a part of the group.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Although our main office is in Istanbul, Turkey, we have a far wider reach than that. We are committed to helping people all around the nation. Here's an exciting revelation: we are happy to declare that the first team in Kosovo has been founded!

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

I have been following FRC as a mentor for 11 years, which has broadened the horizons of my students during my 30-year teaching career. FRC taught me and my students what Einstein said if you want to be happy, connect to a goal, not to people or things.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Abidin Zenginler

**NASA ACCP Program:**

SPARC Robotics 5665

### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

I had been keeping an eye on the NASA ACCP program for a while, and during the Bayou Regional, where I was with my FRC team, we got to meet representatives of the ACCP program. They expressed their interest in introducing the ACCP program in Türkiye, so I saw this as a chance not to be missed.

### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

Our primary headquarters are located in Istanbul, Türkiye. However, we operate a project called STEAMLİNE, through which we establish STEAM centers in every city across Türkiye. Our objective is to introduce the NASA ACCP program in each of these cities.

### What would you like to share about yourself?

Since 2015, I've been at the lead mentor of SPARC 5665, and together, we've executed over 30 impactful projects while staying true to FIRST's core values. I'm deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment and spreading STEM education to young minds across our country. From our humble beginnings with just 10 students in one city, our team has flourished to include over a hundred participants spanning 35 cities. I am dedicated to advancing the mission of FIRST, and I intend to leverage the resources of NASA ACCP to propel us forward in this endeavor.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Ela Nahmias

**NASA ACCP Program:**

SPARC Robotics 5665

### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

This year at the Bayou Regional, we had the opportunity to connect with the NASA ACCP program. Thanks to their openness to establishing a center in Türkiye, we became one of the pioneering teams in our country. It was an especially rewarding experience for me as it's my last year, and I even had the privilege of serving as a mentor to my fellow teammates.

### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

While our operations are based in İstanbul, Türkiye, our ambition stretches far and wide. We aim to roll out this program to every city throughout the country, making its benefits accessible to communities nationwide.

### What would you like to share about yourself?

For the past four years, SPARC has been more than just a team to me; it's been like family. The support and encouragement I've found within this community have played a vital role in shaping my future and shaping the person I am today. As a young mentor, having the chance to make a real difference in the world and give back to the community that raised me, with the support of the NASA ACCP program, has been an absolute dream come true. I also love giraffes and the color yellow.

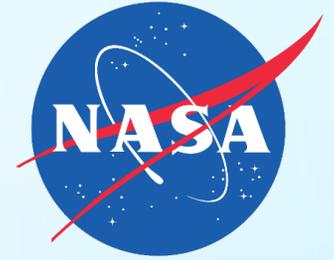


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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Ilgar TASTEPE

**NASA ACCP Program:**

SPARC Robotics 5665

### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

I had been following the NASA ACCP program for a long time, and during the Bayou Regional, where I went with my FRC team, we had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the ACCP program. They mentioned their interest in implementing the ACCP program in Turkey, so I decided to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

Our main headquarters are in Istanbul, Turkey, but we have a project called STEAMLINE where we establish STEM centers in every city in Turkey. Our goal is to implement the NASA ACCP program in our STEM centers in every city.

### What would you like to share about yourself?

I am entering my fourth year as a mentor in the FRC program, which I started in 2017. Since becoming a mentor, I have strived to spread STEM culture and education to as many people as possible under the principle of "equality". Moving forward, my biggest goal is to use NASA ACCP resources most effectively to ensure that even more people receive STEM education and culture.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Nehir BILGE

**NASA ACCP Program:** SPARC Robotics 5665

### How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?

As I was competing for my FRC team SPARC 5665 in Bayou Regional 2024, we had the opportunity to talk with NASA ACCP program representatives. After sharing our values and passions, they expressed their interest in reaching the program to Turkey via SPARC. We are delighted and honored by this opportunity.

### Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?

We are based in Istanbul, Türkiye. We are determined to pursue our motto “reaching as many as we can,” and spread the Astro Camp to all regions of Türkiye through our STEAMLINE network project.

### What would you like to share about yourself?

As someone who has started her FIRST journey with FLL then continued with FRC, I always believed in the saying “Hard work pays off.” As 5665, we are vigorously working on our projects that focus on doing good for the local and global communities. With the ACCP program reaching overseas, I am impatiently waiting to see the positive outcome.

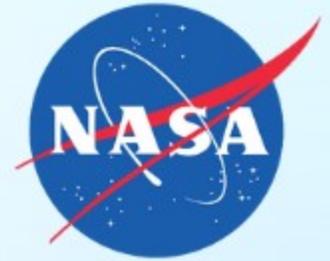


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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Abdullah Yilmaz

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

While participating in the competition in the Bayou Region, my teammates had the opportunity to meet ACCP program representatives. After introductions, we decided to join the team to help more people through this program.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Although our official site is located in Istanbul, Turkey, we try to help as many teams as we can, both in our country and in other countries.

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

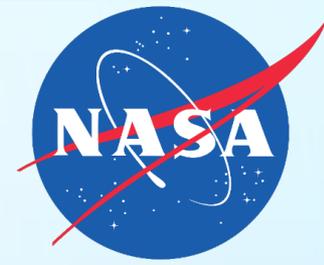
The passion for combining and building has been important to me since my early years. I was introduced to robotics during my high school years and this was the biggest turning point in my life. Now I could both realize my passions and gain new knowledge. I improved myself in many areas such as design, mechanics and electronics. Now my biggest passion is to improve myself further and teach what I have learned to young people.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Nazli ONDEMIR

**NASA ACCP Program:**  
SPARC Robotics 5665

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

We cooperated with the representatives of the NASA ACCP Program during the FRC Bayou Regional.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

We are based in Istanbul, Turkey. Our goal is to make Astro Camp accessible across Turkey and through the STEAMLINe project.

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

I have been fascinated by robots since I was 10 years old and that influenced my choices during highschool. I joined our FRC team SPARC 5665 performed various roles including the mechanics captain. I am graduating but I would like to continue my support to the team as a mentor.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name: Azra Derin Sansal**

**NASA ACCP Program: #5665 SPARC Robotics**

### **How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

Thanks to my research experience, I've been following NASA for a long time, and in the Bayou Regional, which I participated in with my team, we welcomed the program's representatives in our pit and seized the opportunity to create a global outreach by bringing NASA ACCPT to Turkiye.

### **Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

We're based in Istanbul, Turkey, however, thanks to our STEAMLINE mentor network, we were able to reach mentors and establish STEAM centers all around Turkey. Our platform will help us spread the NASA ACCP resources extensively.

### **What would you like to share about yourself?**

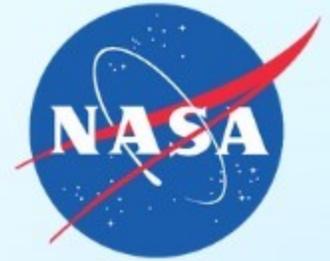
In my mentoring journey, which I embarked on recently, I couldn't be more excited to partner with NASA. Being an aspiring astrophysicist who has been part of the FRC community for four years now, I'm looking forward to sharing the NASA ACCP resources to provide educational opportunities for everyone. As a multilingual who speaks 5 languages, I will be using my knowledge to reach students across the world.



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# NASA ASTRO CAMP® COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ACCP) PROGRAM



## 2024 TEACHER APPRECIATION

**Name:** Yavuz Nebi Kaya

**NASA ACCP Program:** #6436 PARS Robotics

**How did you become a NASA ACCP Program Educator?**

My teammates and I got to meet representatives of the ACCP program while we were competing in the Bayou Region. We decided on joining the team after being introduced so that we might use this initiative to assist additional people.

**Where is the location of your NASA ACCP site?**

Despite having our official website hosted in Istanbul, Turkey, we work to support as many teams as we can, either domestically and internationally.

**What would you like to share about yourself?**

I love researching and learning new things since my childhood. When I was introduced to robotics in my high school life, I had the opportunity to further expand and strengthen my interests. Afterwards, I made it my goal to teach others what I know. At this point in my life, my goal is to always continue learning and pass on what I know to those after me.



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