

Talon Robotics Parent FAQ

Kick off – Now what?

Once the game is released the team has 6 weeks to plan and build the robot. The room will be open most days until 9pm and on weekends according to the posted schedule. Students are welcome to join us when they are able – nothing is “required” but some meetings and dates are encouraged. School is first and we do encourage team members to pay attention to their homework, but it is up to students and their parents to decide what that means. Meals are often brought to the room by families. Sign up is on the team website at www.team2502.com.

Registration/Communication

There are 3 steps to become fully registered. Information is available online on the website. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Sandy Olson at sandy.olson@team2502.com.

The team uses several methods of communication in an effort to keep everyone up to date! A weekly email is sent out by the “team robot” that details what is happening for the week and what is coming up. The team also employs a closed Facebook group that will often include communication and updates on activities. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the Facebook group. Recently team members have been using slack as a means of communication – details can be found in the weekly email. Finally, the team website at www.team2502.com will have our calendar and other links for both parents and students.

Parents are also welcome to attend the weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 7pm! You can see our team leaders in action and connect with other parents/mentors.

Tournaments

We have registered for 2 tournaments.

Duluth Northern Lights Regional in Duluth, MN
Wednesday, March 4 to Saturday, March 7

Mpls 10,000 Lakes Regional on the U of M Campus
Wednesday, March 25 to Saturday, March 28

Both tournaments follow the same format. Load in Wednesday night, practice on Thursday and qualifications matches on Friday and Saturday morning. Alliance selections on Saturday late morning and for those that qualify – finals are played Saturday afternoon. All tournaments are free and open to the public – we would love to have you join us! All fully registered students are welcome to attend tournaments. There is no charge for the local tournament and we will have a final cost for the Duluth tournament in the upcoming weeks. Our travel costs are usually about \$200 to \$300 and include the bus, hotel room and breakfast.

If the team wins the tournament or select awards at the tournament, they may be eligible to attend 2 other tournaments. The World Championship will be held in Detroit from April 28 to May 3 and the State Tournament is held in May.

Lettering and more

FIRST Robotics is recognized by the MSHSL as a sport and therefore students are able to letter. The lettering requirements are posted on our website in detail. All Eden Prairie High School students can letter – including first year students – as long as they meet the requirements (hours, attend tournaments, attend demos, lead a project). In addition, there are a number of scholarships that are available to robotics students. Information about those are available in the FIRST website.

Team Timeline

Talon Robotics functions as a year round club – both students and mentors are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of the team for all seasons as it fits their schedule. Below is a rough outline of our seasons and events for you planning purposes. For a more complete schedule, please check the team's website at www.team2502.com

September

Sign up and start student mentoring FLL, FTC and FRC teams we work with
High School Activities Fair

October

Introductory Parent Meeting
Required Mentor Meeting/Training

November

FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
Spaghetti Dinner
Team Meetings

December

FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
Team Meetings

January

FRC Kickoff
Begin Build Season – meeting daily

February

Week Zero Event
Parent and Student Meeting for first regional

March

FRC Week 2-5 Regionals
Competition Season

April

FRC Week 6-7 Regionals & District Championships
Parent and Student Meeting for Championships (if we qualify)
Vote for next year's captains

May

Team Banquet
State Championship (if we qualify)

June

Summer Hours begin
Team 2502 Robotics Summer Camp

July

Fourth of July celebration demonstration (July 4th)
Parent and Student Meeting for IRI (if we qualify)

August

Car Show
MN State Fair

Volunteering

The FIRST program runs on volunteers at almost every level and we appreciate any help you can provide.

Our team is a small business and we need more than just engineering mentors! Join us if you have skills or experience in taking pictures, editing videos, creating a business plan, public speaking, maintaining a website, project management, banquet planning, cleaning or even putting on band aids! We would love to have you as a mentor for the team.

Volunteers are crucial to the success of each event, as well. Team 2502 encourages mentors, parents and students to become involved as a volunteer at our regional events, championship events and even off season events. Volunteers sign up on the website at www.firstinspires.org and then select the volunteer tab. Select the event they wish to assist at and what they want to do and the event coordinator will contact you. Event volunteers work in many areas, such as robot inspectors, field reset, judges, team queuing and more. Volunteers at the event receive a t-shirt, identification card and meals. The volunteer coordinator is usually very good about allowing volunteers to watch as their team competes. Please note that some volunteer positions require training and certification.

Additional Resources

Team 2502 Website

www.team2502.com

FIRST Website

www.usfirst.org

FIRST FRC Program Information

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>

FIRST FTC Program Information

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc>

FIRST Volunteer Information

<http://www.usfirst.org/community/volunteers>