

Talon Robotics 2020 Talking Points

- FIRST stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.” The program was founded with the ultimate goal of inspiring young people to be the science and technology leaders of the future.
- FIRST accomplishes this goal by challenging students to create robots that compete in fun, game-like challenges. Past challenges include games similar to Frisbee golf, soccer, and basketball. With themes ranging from medieval to science-fiction.
- The FIRST Robotics’ program progression starts in kindergarten and continues through high school. Younger students use EV3 kits, while older students build robots from scratch.
- I am on Eden Prairie High School’s Talon Robotics Team 2502. Five students started our robotics team in 2007. Since 2008 we have qualified for World Championship 7 times and now have more than 40 members.
- This year’s game is called Infinite Recharge. In Infinite Recharge, we join our alliance partners collecting power cells, energizing the control panel, and hanging from the generator switch to make it operational. Matches are only 2 min and 30 seconds. The alliances must gather power cells and score them in the bottom port, high port, or inner port for points.
- We mentor and supply financial support two Jr. FLL, three FLL (FIRST Lego League) and four FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) teams. We also have assisted the Eagle Ridge Academy team, tERAbytes.
- We demonstrate our robot annually at RoboFest, scout troop meetings, Eden Prairie 4th of July Celebration, Minnesota State Fair, and at many of our sponsors’ locations.
- Each summer we run summer camps through community education. Students get to participate in STEM challenges and build their own robot using an Arduino. We have added a programming class and plan to continue to expand the program.
- In addition to corporate sponsors, we raise funds to help offset travel costs through a spaghetti dinner, Krispy Kreme donut sales, and concession sales at various school events and car shows.
- This year’s robot was designed to shoot power cells into the outer and inner ports and activate the control panel during TeleOp. During the end game our robot will hang from the generator switch.