

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 afterschool until 9pm and then on Saturday and Sunday. 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. 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.

Tournament

We have registered for 2 tournaments.

Great Northern Regional, ND

Wednesday, March 13 to Saturday, March 16

Mpls 10,000 Lakes Regional on the U of M Campus

Wednesday, March 27 to Saturday, March 30

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 the final cost for the North Dakota tournament is \$250. Our travel 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 24 to April 29 and the MSHSL 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 scholarships is available on 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
- Team Meetings

November

- FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Host FTC Tournament
- Team Meetings

December

- FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
- Team Meetings

January

- FRC Kickoff
- Begin Build Season – open room daily

February

- Week Zero Event
- FRC Stop Build Day (Tuesday, Feb 20 at 10:59pm)
- 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)
- Eden Prairie Air Expo
- 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>