

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 team will have regular build hours and they will be posted in email and on slack. 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.

Competitions

The team typically registers for 2 regional events each season. Please check the team calendar for the current event schedule. Usually competitions follow the same format. Load on Wednesday night, practice on Thursday and qualification matches on Friday and Saturday morning. Alliance selections on Saturday late morning and for those that qualify – finals are played Saturday afternoon. All events are free and open to the public – we would love to have you join us! Competitions allow the team to advance to 2 other events. The World Championship will be held in Texas and the State Tournament is held in Minneapolis in May.

Attendance at competitions as a team member is a privilege and offers a great opportunity to see the hard work of the year pay off. Talon team members must be fully registered with the team and meet minimum requirements to attend an event as a team member.

Lettering and more

FIRST Robotics is recognized by the MSHSL as a sport and therefore all EPHS 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 is available on the FIRST website.

Talon Robotics Parent FAQ

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 your 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 and FTC teams
- High School Activities Fair

October

- Introductory Parent Meeting
- Required Mentor Meeting/Training
- Off Season Events

November

- FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Off Season Events

December

- FTC/FLL student mentoring continues
- Team Meetings

January

- FRC Kickoff
- Begin Build Season – meeting daily

February

- 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, July, August

- Summer Hours begin
- Team 2502 Robotics Summer Camp
- Fourth of July celebration demonstration (July 4th)
- MN State Fair

Talon Robotics Parent FAQ

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.firstinspires.org