

THE TALON TIMES

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Early Birds, Literally

In the wee hours of the morning, 5:45 AM to be exact, TALON 540 arrived at their nest, Mills E. Godwin High School. The rising sun (behind the speckled clouds) marked a big day for the eagles. It marked the team's first competition of the year: Rumble in the Roads.

What is Rumble in the Roads?

Rumble in the Roads is a pre-season FRC competition. This year, the competition was a modified version of last year's FRC game, Recycle Rush, a match that involves picking up and stacking totes on scoring platforms, putting pool noodles, or "litter," inside recycling containers, and putting the containers on top of scoring stacks of totes. There was also a cooperation aspect of the game in which both alliances can pool their totes and stack them on a step dividing the field to each gain twenty points. Human players could also throw "litter" across the field to gain points.



On the Road... to Rumble in the Roads

By 6:30 AM, TALON 540 was swiftly driving east towards Menchville High School to compete. We are filled me joy and eager to see the results of our preparations.

Dear Diary,

Entry 1

The team had some quality team bonding playing ninja slap as we waited for H to arrive. (I think he was driving 15 mph on the highway...)

— Michael, CAD Lead

Entry 2

The robot has been checked in, and the team is all situated in the stands to watch the matches. The CADers have just been sent to scouting, following a pre-made scouting sheet. I'm currently talking with an alumnus about driving strategies to increase our point output. Can't wait to relay this useful information to my lead, Goutham, who will, in turn, discuss it with the drive team after the drivers meeting ends!

— Chris, Strategy Member



Entry 3

The opening ceremonies were cool, but qualification rounds have been much much cooler! My friends and I have dived into the electrical world as we, the members of the electrical subgroup, observe different ways to wire robots in order to accomplish different objectives. Before Rumble in the Roads, we were taught by our veteran mentors and taken down to the knit' and grit' of things, discovering for the first time how electrical engineers do their "magic." Here, we have been called to act on the spot and really get hands on. We rookie members were even given ample opportunities to fix the robot!

— Nathan, Electrical Member



Entry 4

Highlights

- Tacos and nachos, burgers and fries. Lunch was a grand ol' time with those delicious food trucks.
- We had a good partnership in our first match and scored over one hundred points for our team.
- During a recent match, one of our alliance robots got stuck on the playing field and left us to finish the game by ourselves. I guess even the best of teams can have some not-so-good matches.

And during it all, I continued to scout different robots, trying to size up the competition.

— Spencer, CAD Member



Entry 5

Our primary drive team just switched with our secondary team, one consisting of all rookies. And I was surprised by their skill! They took over and killed it, driving the robot with ease.

— Vibhas, PR Member

Entry 6

TALON 540 made it to alliance selections! We were able to compete in the quarter finals. Although we didn't make it to the semifinals, I enjoyed the entire experience.

— Swapnil, Programming Member



Rookie Files

The experience truly promoted the importance of team work and learning, helping students to immerse in STEM and see how fun it can be.

— Shreyas, Electrical Member

Rumble in the Roads placed tasks upon every member of the team, even rookies such as myself. I initially felt unsure of my ability to aid in the preparation effort, but the kind and aiding veterans quickly brushed away my suspicions by asking me, a rookie, to help them with robot maintenance on TALON 8.0. The competition itself exposed me to many aspects of robotics competitions, and the sight of all the other teams with their robots, as intricate and complex as our own, filled me with wonderment. The alliances and partnerships that TALON 540 forged at the event demonstrated to me the team's strong camaraderie with other teams and how we cannot take the wisdom of other teams for granted. Overall, Rumble was not merely a competition, but a forum for the sharing of ideas and concepts.

— Naren, Programming Member

Going head-to-head with foes and learning that even the worst enemy can become your team mate, your friend... That was eye-opening.

— Nathan, Electrical Member

When I first saw the TALON 540 setup on Club Day at school, I was immediately

interested. I received a brochure about the team and I went on their website that very day to learn more. After watching several videos of competitions and seeing 540's robots from previous years, I knew that I absolutely wanted to join. It was difficult to get in, considering there were many applicants, but I managed to get accepted. The following meetings and Rumble in the Roads experience piqued my interest in TALON 540 to continue participating. Although I have heard that build season is going to be the most difficult part of robotics, I am excited and eager to see what follows next!

— Saran, Mechanical Member



Stay Tuned!

Upcoming Events

- November 21st - FIRST LEGO League Tournament at Mills E. Godwin High School

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TALON 540

2101 Pump Road, Henrico, VA 23238

www.team540.com



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