

# THE TALON TIMES

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## Welcoming all FLL Participants



Once again a huge amount of people and teams turned out for our annual FLL tournament hosted at our highschool.

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### Table Resetter

For my first FLL experience, I managed the practice tables for the teams to test tweaks to their robots. I didn't realize how active the job was going to be; there was constantly a line of children and teams waiting to prep their robot before their competition time. There wasn't much idleness during the entire event, and I enjoyed the high level of energy during the entirety of the tournament. It was interesting to see the different designs each team used to approach the challenges. Even when just building things with Legos, children used

their ingenuity to explore different options, such as sensors, different types of wheels, and unique strategies. As some parents spectated their children on the practice field, I had the opportunity to talk to some of them about the importance of fanning the flame of their engineering and robotics interest. This was my first time experiencing the Godwin-run robotics tournament, and as a rookie member, I was extremely impressed with how smooth the event ran, how passionate the teams were about their creations, and how mature each of the team guides were in leading their teams.

— David, Financial Member



## Team Guide

After having participated in robotics competitions for nine years of my life, I was excited to finally be on the other side: organizing the event rather than competing in it. As a team guide, I was responsible for ensuring that the team gets where they need to be on time. The team I was helping out was on top of everything from the start. As I arrived to meet them, their whole pit was setup and they were already off to the practice tables to make sure that all of their attachments were working. Walking over to meet them, I suddenly realized that I had actually taught robotics to two of the kids. I was so happy to see that I had inspired these kids to pursue robotics. Words cannot describe how amazing the team was. The team only had four members on it, yet their robot was able to blow away the competition, consistently scoring over 500 points. Not only that, they had built a “prototype” of their solution for the project, which was a machine that would produce energy from burning excess trash. When I heard their name called for the

grand prize at the end of the day, I was just as ecstatic as the team was. At the beginning of day, I knew that this competition would be an enlightening experience. However, it turned out to be orders of magnitude more enriching than I could have ever imagined.

— Swapnil, Programming Member

## CAD Files

The month of November went as smoothly as October for CAD. The training was finished up for the rookies, setting up December for practice and some extra outside of the PowerPoint modules training, such as Design Efficiency and such. Nathan did research into the Shrink wrapping of Assemblies and the benefits of Shrink-wrap. Shrink-wrap is a command in Inventor that simplifies a complex Assembly and makes it a simple part. My thoughts on it were that it would ease the strain on the Computer if we Shrink-wrapped assemblies we would never need to edit, such as gearboxes and wheels. Nathan's researched ended up spilling into December, however. T-Shirt Bot's CAD was adjusted, the 2Ds updated, and any changes needed of mostly the Electrical System, such as the battery and the E-Board and Systems.

— Michael, CAD Lead

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## Talented TALONs

Take a peek at the creative writing potential of our members through their submissions below!

### Dear diary,

As I walked into school to attend robotics today, I noticed a stray butterfly flapping nearby. I thought to myself, "Shouldn't they be migrating at this time?" This butterfly was probably slower than the others, so I placed him in the t-shirt cannon and shot him south to give him a little bit of a boost to Florida, where all migrating animals go.

In general, I had such a gr8 time. Even though the meeting lasted until 8 o'clock PM EST, I felt fantastic. I love staying up past my 7:30 PM EST bedtime.

Love,

David, Financial Member

# Stay Tuned!

## Upcoming Events

- January \_\_\_ - Kickoff at Godwin High School

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### TALON 540

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