



October 30, 2015

Teams from throughout the Capital Region as well as teams traveling from other parts of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut will be convening at Ballston Spa High School on Saturday, November 7th for the Robot Rumble Off-Season Robotics Competition. Individuals interested in learning more about the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) programs are welcome to stop by and check out this exciting event.

A collaboration of four FIRST Robotics Teams, including teams from Ballston Spa, Shenedehowa, Shaker, and Colonie, took the lead in organizing this event by applying for and receiving a grant from the Town of Malta/GLOBALFOUNDRIES Foundation. The grant allowed the Recycle Rush competition field from last season to be brought to Ballston Spa for the rumble. Off-season competitions provide an opportunity for teams to have fun and to recruit new students, industry mentors and sponsors as we begin preparing for the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition in March 2016. Ballston Spa High School is excited to be able to host this great opportunity to get students interested in the STEM fields.

Robot Rumble is the first of several activities to get students excited for the upcoming 2016 Regional FIRST Robotics Competition at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV) on March 17th to 19th.

Visit <http://techvalleyfirst.org/robotrumble> for event details.

FIRST programs are growing in New York Tech Valley as a result of the overwhelming support among our industry sponsors to engage more students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and develop the needed workforce to support their businesses. Sponsors include GLOBALFOUNDRIES, GE, ASML, M+W Group, KLA-Tencor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Time Warner, National Grid, Mattson Technology, Lam Research, Applied Materials, Turner Construction, SCREEN USA, Wonik IPS and PDF Solutions. Currently grants are available for new teams. Groups interested in forming a team can apply for grant funding by going to New York Tech Valley FIRST web site at <http://www.techvalleyfirst.org/index.php?page=grants>.

FIRST Robotics Competitions combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand", hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "real-world engineering" as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Through the program students get to learn 21st Century skills from professional engineering mentors; build and compete with a robot of their own design; learn to use sophisticated software and hardware; and compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments.

The action will be taking place from 8:00 am until 5:30 pm on Saturday, November 7th. The event is free and open to the public. Stop by the Ballston Spa High School, 220 Ballston Avenue in Ballston Spa, NY.

A similar competition for elementary and middle school aged students will take place at Ballston Spa Middle School on December 5th.

For additional information please email K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin at dirwin@bscsd.org or call [518-884-7150](tel:518-884-7150) ext. 2317.

