

Tuxedo Pandas and their Robot Parade



Timing: Late May, after the FIRST World Championship, and just as registration opens for FLL & FTC.

Format: half-day event, with workshops before to build and program robots on the spot using Lego Mindstorms.

Theme: Varies annually. Provides an artistic outlet. Past themes include Salute to Veterans (2011), Honoring our Mothers (2012), Butterflies (2013, science museum opened a butterfly house), and Wheels & Wagons (2014).

Team objectives: Build a robot that follows a line around approximately an 80 foot track, capable of stopping before overrunning an obstacle, and optionally, incorporating artistic elements of the parade theme. All participants with a successful lap around the course receive a custom medal.

Overarching Goal: Provide a simple but creative weekend event as a way for students in a broad age range to try out robotics, without the intense time commitment involved in mainstream competitions. Serve as a funnel to FIRST events for those interested in going further.

Web: see www.TheTechnologyCouncil.com/roboparade

Partners: The Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council, the Science Museum of Western Virginia, The Children's Museum of Blacksburg, Roanoke Robotics Club, Let's Code Blacksburg, and FTC Team 4924: The Tuxedo Pandas

