



Military Magnet Academy
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Robotics Team from Military Magnet to Represent State at National Competition

North Charleston, SC (January 27, 2026) — Military Magnet Academy (MMA) is proud to announce that its FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, TalonSkies (Team 24769), will represent South Carolina at the United States Governors Cup. The national robotics showcase will take place at the historic DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., in late February 2026.

TalonSkies has earned its place among an elite group of teams—just one from each U.S. state—recognized for outstanding achievement in engineering, innovation, teamwork, and leadership. The event provides students with an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate their STEM skills on a national stage while engaging with robotics leaders, state representatives, and future-focused STEM initiatives.

"This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students," said TSgt. Carla Ferrette-Clark, the team's coach and CTE instructor at MMA. "They will not only compete at the highest level but also represent the talent and promise of students across South Carolina."

A Team Effort Built on Mentorship and Core Values

TalonSkies' achievement reflects the dedication of a committed coaching and mentorship team, including TSgt. Ferrette-Clark; Darwin Shorters, Computer Science Teacher at MMA; TSgt. Jerry White, Middle School Leadership Instructor, and Sally-Ann Archie, mentor from BAE Systems. These educators consistently collaborate, innovate, and provide real-world STEM connections for students, preparing them for future careers.

FIRST South Carolina is part of the global FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) organization, which inspires young people to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through exciting mentor-based robotics programs.

Community Support Secures Major Trip Components

Thanks to the generosity of the MMA STEM Initiative's sponsors, the school has already secured funding for several major components of the trip, including transportation to and from Washington, D.C., student enrichment activities, team T-shirts, and lodging. Each participating student will also contribute a \$100 commitment and participation fee, reinforcing shared responsibility and investment in this experience.

While significant progress has been made, the school is requesting additional support to cover remaining costs such as meals and other incidentals—expenses that are especially critical for students who may be unable to cover them independently. School leaders want to ensure that no student is excluded from this historic opportunity due to financial barriers.

For information on how to support TalonSkies' journey to the U.S. Governors Cup, please contact TSgt. Ferrette-Clark at carla_f_clark@charlestoncountyschools.gov.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 51,000 students in 90 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.