

Return to Baja

Ford ran their Bronco R race prototype in the SCORE-International Baja 1000 in late November, piloted by Baja champion Cameron Steele and Rebelle Rally winner and seasoned Baja racer Shelby Hall, who rotated with veteran Ford off-road racers Johnny Campbell, Curt LeDuc and Jason Scherer.

The historic race, a platform for the Bronco Built Wild™ Extreme Testing regimen, showcases Ford Performance's race-proven technology transfer, as both race and production Broncos are powered by fully stock 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6 turbo engines (the same performance-driven engine family that won at Le Mans, also available in F-Series pickups and Ford Edge and Explorer ST performance SUVs) with 10-speed SelectShift automatics.

The Bronco R race prototype also shares the new Bronco's second-generation Ford T6 chassis. Both deliver four-wheel torque via Ford transfer cases and Dana Spicer front differentials. The race version uses a Ford electronic shift-on-the-fly unit, while the preproduction Bronco at Baja was outfitted with new



Advanced 4x4 with Automatic On-Demand 4H engagement and 3.06:1 low ratio.

The Bronco R race prototype, designed and built by Ford Performance and Geiser Brothers, has a race version of the Bronco High-Performance Off-Road Stability Suspension (HOSS) System, with redesigned independent front suspension and five-link race-prepped rear setup, longer-travel Fox racing shocks with bypass dampers front and rear, and Fox pneumatic bump stops at all four corners.

A preproduction 2021 Bronco 2-Door Outer Banks series with off-road Sasquatch Package also making its first appearance in the

deserts of Baja, as a support vehicle.

With Ford the official SUV and Truck of SCORE-International Off-Road Racing and official vehicle of the ULTRA4 King of the Hammers off-road competition, the F-150 Raptor and the new 2021 F-Series Super Duty Tremor also support the Bronco R race team.

The Bronco R race prototype finished the 53rd Baja 1000 in Class 2 in just over 32 hours, adding to Bronco's storied history at Baja dating back to 1967, including the first-ever overall production 4x4 class win, in the 1969 Baja 1000—a feat no other manufacturer has accomplished since. ■

