

Coach Survey before World Championship

Q10. If there were one aspect of Robofest that I would change, it would be:	Q11. The one aspect of Robofest that I like the best is:	Q12. Please write any suggestions/comments to improve the quality of Robofest for STEM education.
Website hard to navigate and find information on.	The simplicity of the course set up.	Check in fee for our area was \$150 not \$20. Plus Acadia is 2.5 hours from us so our travel costs were high.
Open up for more categories	Team Work	
College kids should not be allowed to compete with high school. College should have a separate category	Everything is great	Please create a separate category for college kids.
meeting place	competition	Allowing for setup and testing time at site would be nice
more promotion	Pure engineering - no project	I did not hear about it until late. I would have liked my kids to work on Junior project. We just did Robot Sumo but it was fun.
	the challenge, it really forces students to use classroom skills in new and challenging ways	My team has access to a NXT based system only for the challenge... guidance on how to use the NXT controller to achieve all outcomes in the challenge... with limited ports available the students were not able to navigate the table, drop balls/egg AND calculate the volume of the box. It wasn't that they couldn't think of ways to accomplish all tasks or program the robot to accomplish the tasks, but with the limitations of the NXT the team had to prioritize the dropping balls and egg over calculating the volume.
Facility needed to be more electrical friendly. The room that we were in, did not have adequate working outlets to plug laptops in for battery recharging. Students had to go in hallway for outlets.	It was 1/2 day of competition	Possible support for funding for computer usage during training period. Many schools do not have the funding to get computers for robotics programs...
The lighting differentials on the various fields of play makes it difficult to calibrate sensors	Fun, one day event	We love this competition! It is fun and engaging. Challenging in nature yet not all encompassing. The venue has had lighting issues in both years attended. Perhaps direct lighting over the playing fields to be consistent.
more workshops	seeing the students perform	More How-To for Site Host in STEM Training and getting sponsorships for all the things a site host has to do. Doing the free workshops and getting the volunteers are very time consuming and expensive. Recruiting new schools and teams requires lots of time and gas. In order to keep growing site host need the STEM training and funds. Robofest is a great program and every students should be given the opportunity to participate. A Big Thank You!
Set up competition areas so spectators area out of the way of coaches and teams.	Working with the kids and seeing their excitement at the robot doing what they expected.	
	focus on autonomous robots /no remote control	I would like to see more timely posting of qualifier results. My team enjoys following and analyzing the scores from other qualifiers. It seems to create more excitement for the regional and world competitions.
More differentiation between the Junior and Senior Game Competition.	Low cost to participate	For some reasons it seems like Robofest draws participants from private organizations (private schools, home schools, neighborhood groups, etc.). It would be good to have more public school participation.
Grants for new robots & parts	The competition inspires kids!!!	We need funding! Can you steer me toward any grants or funding opportunities????

We needed guidance, and received very little	Created good team work	First year coach. I had to scratch and investigate mostly on my own. Called and contacted whoever I could that had already been in robotics. Found answers to questions best way I could. Should have been local leadership for that.
Game tables were too wide for small children to reach his/her robots	Schedule and timing	This is my first year on Robofest, I don't have any suggestions at this time.
Nothing!	I liked that students had to design and program themselves both in preparation and at the tournament. It gave students a sense of accomplishment.	
help for <i>new teams</i>	having many different options for competition	I like that the Jr. Game has a real application. I think more challenges that are real world challenges, not just robot games, helps students become more interested in engineering and science occupations.
Eliminate teams where coaches do the work	real autonomous robotics	I returned after a couple of years off and was surprised at the level of competition. It appears that some coaches provide much more direct help than others; this was independently confirmed by a couple of students we know. The hardest part of coaching is knowing what to correct, and where to let the students' ideas fail. I feel that the unknown challenge needs to be harder, to better separate the students by ability. Perhaps putting an unannounced object on the field to navigate around or something. Would require longer competition time, but would create real learning and fairer assessments.
More help with programming	Student independence	
I want to see more line based programming workshops. My 10 grader learned RobotC 3 years ago and now teaches his high school teacher.	Still like the workshops - one young student gained confidence to do game	Please try to make the judging easier. We had a case that the judge made the students re-start their robot after the time began because the judge (and students) failed to see the robot was incorrectly oriented before the match began. This resulted in a red card and loss of precious game time resetting the robot and program. Also, please allow student/coach/parent interaction outside the 30 min time (when robots are impounded). Students were forced to stay in the pit area when their team or other teams competed. I completely understand and respect the 30min or until impounded timeframe, but outside that time, please let us coaches/parents interact. And, make it easier on the proctors/judges to not have to worry about keeping parents out of the pit or interacting during those times. Thank you for Robofest. We look forward to Michigan Championship
website is very confusing to use	exhibitions & parades have few restrictions	The "exam" for parade participants needs to be age appropriate, or don't give it at all.
the impound, or more time to get the robots working the best they can be	over all competition, and team support amongst each other	My team Was beat 1st round fair and square, the 2nd round, the other team had to have a blue jacket on. So the robot knew which way to make the robot run. The 1ST round they did not wear a jacket, they had a white shirt on, then the robot was not working the way they programmed it. As long as they had the blue jacket on, the robot went the way the person walked. During practice, and during the rounds. The coach tried to toss the student a blue jacket to help the robot, but we stopped him. Yes other teams used a white board, this team had to use a blue jacket, to make the robot get a 100%. I was at the Macomb Christian site, it was a senior team. Yes my team did not have a basket the first time for the egg, we were 15 points behind the other senior team. Second round, the team had the blue jacket on, and they had a

		100 points. My team scored maybe 35 40. With a basket for the egg this time, they hustled to make a basket.
		The format for the Michigan competition at LTU this year was much improved. Moving the exhibitions upstairs and providing more seating downstairs was an excellent change.
Score keepers and judges need to be better trained to prevent errors in the scorecard. This happens too frequently and can lose its credibility.	Opens up the minds of youngsters.	
	I like the new challenges for world comp. adds a new thinking challenge for the students	
Include more missions than can possibly be done and drive students to choose which to attempt.	Autonomous	Encourage teams to maintain an engineering notebook and let you publish it after the season by offering a discount on next year's competition.
Shorter competition days for exhibition teams	freedom of teams to choose their own project	
short awarding time at MC and WC	unknown task	Exhibition rule says kids should show appropriate to their ages, but final top awards always go to the teams with very complicated stuff, even though what those teams did was way way above their level. After repeating many times, Kids might actually learn that are not created by them, and be able to answer questions from judges. How does Robofest view such teams?
Trophy	Learning	Judging seems to be difficult each year. Maybe a better way of judging based on other factors.
	Very warm accepting and encouraging environment	Robofest is by far the best student competition that I have seen yet. Coaches and staff are friendly, encouraging and supportive. The entry fee is modest and the opportunity for students to participate is very accommodating. I personally think that Robofest can be a premiere competition for schools. I am working with our district STEM Director to see if we can get more schools involved and hope to become a regional site for our district. Outstanding program, anything that we can do to get the State Department of Education involved the better. This is far better than FIRST and getting a grant to help school participate would be outstanding.
Shorter "ceremony" at the state competition.	This is JUST the mission which is the fun part. No project like in FLL which makes Robofest MUCH more fun and MUCH better!!!!	You guys do a great job. You might consider having your unknowns require more programming than just filling in some numbers in the program. Perhaps something that requires the teams to do an hour or two of programming on their own, rather than coming 100% prepared. That will stop some of the teams that appear to be parent driven and force the kids to be the ones who really step up and accomplish the programming. Anything else like the above suggestion that you can do to make sure it is the kids doing the programming would be great. I think a limited number of the teams have the coaches doing a lot of the programming. Thanks!
		There are some improvements needed to the scoring tabulation at the regional competition. Two years in a row we have been ranked incorrectly and had our position adjusted after the competition concluded. I was suggest considering at a minimum, having a second person validate each input score against the printed score sheets. Another option to consider would be to post

		the scores after each round so that teams could validate that what was captured matches the score sheet.
	giving us the opportunity to see the abilities and interests of future engineers, scientists in a well-organized environment	Robofest at LTU should provide workshops for kids through schools.

World Championship Coach Survey

Q3. What do you think are the strengths of Robofest programs?	Q2. What do you think are the weaknesses of Robofest programs?	Q4. Please write any suggestions/comments to improve the quality of Robofest programs.
Overall, I think the robofest program is great, and I really like how accessible it is for those working on limited budgets. keep up the great work, we really do appreciate it!	There seemed to be some inconsistencies in judging this year. Being the first year of the BottleZone competition, there were some wrinkles that could be smoothed out for last year.	
inclusive and educational	food concession	none!
Autonomous (versus remote-controlled)	(Cannot think of any)	Thank you!!
fun for the kids	inconsistent judging	make sure the judges all use the same criteria for judging, kind of like you would for the sports where points are assigned for skills that are mastered etc.
Flexibility, and recognition of everyone's effort	Room for event	Exhibition rules need to be improved to better focus on innovation and autonomous technology, rather than on fit and finish, tech is messy, especially new tech.
a very good platform for youngsters	nurturing creativity is low	WISER should be more widely advertised
low entry fees, short and straight forward rules	space	Maybe it was me, but it seemed that the judges were more interested in "boys" projects, than they were with "girls". Judges would believe whatever the boys said, but seem skeptical of what the girls said. They seemed to be more comfortable with the boys, and gravitated towards them on return visits.
Organizing	Exhibition section could be presented better for other participants to become more motivating for exhibitors and attractive and useful for game participants.	as mentioned above
Great opportunity for kids to grow technically. Workshops are still a highlight for me and my teams. It puts the kids in a learning environment with robots and others kids and is a boost to the confidence for the students. One of my team members questioned his own confidence and ability to do Robofest before a workshop. But after the workshop, his attitude changed to "I can copy pieces of programs from [examples] everywhere...." Ultimately there was very little code re-use, but multiple entire re-writes. I did like participating in the warmup competition. It pushed our teams to get their designs completed sooner leaving more time to tweak and improve things. It was nice that our teams had 4 competition opportunities.	none	Much better arrangement for the event. The bleacher out the whole time saved lots of time and catered to the spectators much more. I really appreciate this and I had parents who wanted to express appreciation. Thank you for this change/improvement. The only change would be to move the white chain 4-5 feet away from the bleacher to provide walking room. Fewer events happening on the Saturday versus last year was good too. It freed up space and saved some time too. Thank you for not stating the names of each team in the intro. That takes a lot of time and is much better announced just before the match as was done. I really appreciate that the exhibition events did not come over the sound system and that there was not loud music the whole time either. When you cannot see the exhibition, just hearing the audio seems is just

(practice, qualifier, MI & world Championships) It was good to show scores to allow for errors to be corrected. I did like the unknown factor that required a more significant program change. Robot game challenges were pretty simple and allowed our senior team to try something outside the normal - cameras.		noise. So thank you for that change. The closing ceremony seemed long for many students. I do like recognition where needed, but maybe there is a way to make it more efficient especially when recognizing the sponsors, coaches, and site hosts. If those could be grouped more, it might take less time. I think we need to remember the kids usually go to school for ~7 hours, so many are ready to go home by 3pm. Overall, the World Championship Robofest event was better than ever. Thank you to Dr. Chung and so many others who work so hard to provide an opportunity for our kids to compete and learn so much about robotics and technology. I look forwards to many more years of Robofest for our teams.
low cost, challenging games no specific robot kit required	Clarity of the game rules for what the kids can and cannot do. More details and clear descriptions of intentions behind the rules.	Show coaches the official scores during the competitions. If you want to keep the scores secret from the kids, then have the coaches keep it quiet. This might not be possible.
The game	Sumo	Nutrition, the food choices were very limited at the main event. Healthy choices instead of greasy pizza should be compulsory.
teaches kids a lot about the math and sciences	coaches doing the work for the kids	I thought the added task in World Comp. was a great idea. It puts the kids in a practical work place situation of problem solving. Great addition.
Unknown factor introduced in 2014 is great for judging true capabilities of teams.	Veteran judges needed for exhibition category.	
Great for all!!	First place team coaches did all the work, while the second place team from Korea should have won having the best robot and team.	Winning team was warned multiple times during 40 minute programming period (coaching at practice table and going into roped off area) and worst yet coach fixed robot before runoff. I know you don't want to disqualify but you could have easily given their team red cards and 2 points subtracted to go along with a warning
		Sometimes individual judges get easily swayed by the opinion of the chief judge and do not stand firm to their own judgment. This happens especially for Exhibition. I think this should be improved by better training of the judges.
Having the kids program on site	clear description of the day of competition ahead of time	Better communication