

Robofest e-Newsletter, 1-18-19

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Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) Robofest Final Rules Published

The 2019 Final Robofest Rules for all competition divisions have been posted to the robofest.net webpage. Each division is listed under the *Get Involved* tab.

The Final Version of the 2019 Robofest General Rules have been also been released and can be found on the *Get Involved/2019 Main Page* on the www.robofest.net website.

(2) 2019 Registration is open

We have added new sites! Registration is open for all Qualifying and (non-World Championship) Open Competition sites. For Michigan teams, if you have registered for a site (Including USA Video Qualifier) and another site has opened that you would like to move to, we can easily transfer your team to the new site. Just send an email to spaloni@ltu.edu. Include your coach ID, current site registration and *move to* site.

(3) Available Scholarship for girls in STEM

College Scholarships are being offered by Robofest Sponsor “Michigan Council of Women in Technology (MCWT) Foundation. MCWT’s mission is *“to inspire and grow women in the field of technology”*. The scholarships are for college-bound high school girls, and undergraduate and graduate female students who are enrolled in a Michigan school, pursuing an IT degree. This is great for employees that are still pursuing their degree! Scholarships range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The deadline is **January 31, 2019**.

For more information including the application process, please visit <https://www.mcwt.org/programs/list/University-Initiatives/Scholarship-Program>

(4) Robofest 2019 Warmup Competition and Judge Training for Game at LTU

On Saturday, Feb 16, 2019 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm we are running a mock competition to train Site Hosts and Judges to run the Robofest Game Qualifier. Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf>

Michigan Site Hosts and Site Volunteers are encouraged to attend the Warmup. Please register as a Judge on the volunteer registration page: <https://robofest.net/rms/appPages/volunteerPages/index.jsp?siteID=834>

We are looking for local teams who would like to participate (Please register and pay the registration fee for a local qualifier to be eligible). Send an email to spaloni@ltu.edu. Check-in for registered teams begins at 1:00 pm and Judge training will start at 1:50 pm. **Due to space constraints, only registered teams and their entourage may attend this event.**

(5) Robofest 2019 Workshop Schedule

The on-site workshops will be held in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf> . Free parking is available in Lot E.

Only registered and paid Game teams are eligible to register for on-campus workshops. If your preferred site is full or not registered, and another site is not available, you can register your team for the "Michigan Pre-Registration" site in order to pay the registration fee to be eligible to attend the workshops. To register your students, select *Available Workshops* on the registration page.

- EV3 Workshops for Game at LTU:
 - Jan 19, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Feb 9, 1:00pm-4pm
- EV3 Workshop for Exhibition at LTU
 - Feb.23, 2019, 1pm~4pm
- RoboMesh Workshop for VEX IQ at LTU:
 - Jan 26, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Jan 26, 1:00pm ~ 4:00p
- RobotC for EV3 Workshop at for Game at LTU:
 - Feb 2, 9:00am ~ Noon
- NEW for 2019 - RobotC Graphical for EV3 Workshops for Game at LTU:
 - Feb 9, 9:00am ~ Noon
- EduBot Workshop for Vision Centric Challenge (Vcc) with Python at LTU:
 - Mar 2, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm
- Online classrooms will be available soon.

(6) Free Software for Registered Robofest Teams

A) ROBOTC Software for EV3 and NXT

Once again, Carnegie Mellon, Robotics Academy and Robomatter Inc. partners with Robofest in order to provide Robofest 2019 teams with a FREE annual License of ROBOTC for use in Robofest 2019! ROBOTC is a cross-robotics-platform (LEGO Mindstorms and VexIQ) solution that allows students to learn the type of C-based programming used in advanced education and professional applications. It is the only programming language at this level that offers a comprehensive, real-time debugger.

Download ROBOTC for Mindstorms at <http://robotc.net/> and contact esantos@ltu.edu with your registered team ID to obtain your license key.

B) Vex IQ Teams- Getting Robot Mesh desktop software has been made easier

Downloading Robot Mesh software no longer requires a license key. Robot Mesh Studio provides drag-and-drop graphical programming in Blockly (like Scratch) and Flowol as well as coding in Python. Desktop software is available at this link: <https://store.robotmesh.com/desktop>. To download, click on the download link, and click on User Guide to see documentation.

(7) Volunteer Opportunities for High School Students

We are looking for High School Students with EV3 experience to assist the EV3 Workshop Instructors on January 19, 9am~Noon and February 9, 1pm~4pm. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge of EV3 with the next generation of Robofest participants, please contact Shannan Palonis (spalonis@ltu.edu) with the date you are interested and available to assist. Hours can be used toward service requirements for NHS, School, Scouts, and others.

(8) "What's App" Chat Group Available

Our Robofest Director in Ghana, Dr. Yaw Okraku-Yirenkyi has graciously volunteered to set up and monitor a What's App group for teams (mostly international) to share thoughts and ideas and ask questions about

the 2019 Robofest Game. The name of the group is Robofest -Tech Discussion. Please contact Dr. Yaw at yaw.okrakuyirenkyi722@gmail.com if you need assistance logging in.

(9) Robofest Office in Search of Used EV3 and VEX IQ Kits

Robofest office is looking for donations of used robot kits. If you have an EV3 Robot Kit or VEX IQ that you no longer use, we would like to “pay it forward” to new teams looking for equipment. Donations are tax deductible (receipt provided) and anyone who donates a kit will be listed on as a “Friends of Robofest” Sponsor on our website and official poster. Please contact robofest@ltu.edu if you have a kit that you would like to donate.

(10) Michigan Invitational Events are scheduled

2019 Invitational Schedule is as follows. These events will offer Game teams who do not advance from a Michigan Qualifier a second chance to compete. Save the dates ~ Registration information will be coming soon.

- Junior Game at LTU:
 - April 26, 5:00pm ~ 9:00pm
 - April 27, 9:00am ~ 1:00pm
- Senior Game at LTU
 - April 27, 4pm ~ 8:00pm

(11) Robofest 2019 World Championship Schedule

The 19th Annual Robofest World Championship schedule is available on the World Championship page of the Robofest.net website. Good luck to all the teams at Qualifiers!

<https://www.robofest.net/images/1819/WC19schedule.pdf>

(12) \$12,000 LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants

Has your Robofest Student received an LTU Acceptance Letter? He or she could earn money for College! High School Juniors and Seniors who have participated in Robofest at any time and who are planning to attend LTU, could earn a \$3,000 renewable scholarship (Total of \$12,000). Just submit an application, along with a 400-word essay regarding the Robofest experience, career goals, and a letter of recommendation from a Robofest coaches or mentors to apply. Robofest can assist with the recommendation letter if desired. The deadline to apply is April 1st. To find more information and download the application, visit

<https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>



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