

Robofest e-Newsletter, 2-07-19

- (1) [2019 Team Registration is open](#)
- (2) **Robofest Final Rules Published – Check for Updates**
- (3) [Check your Spam Folder for Robofest Emails](#)
- (4) **Robofest Poster Available**
- (5) [Announcing Robofest eAcademy](#)
- (6) **Robofest 2019 Warmup Competition and Judge Training for Game at LTU**
- (7) [Robofest 2019 Workshop Schedule](#)
- (8) **Free Software for Registered Robofest Teams**
- (9) [“What’s App” Chat Group Available](#)
- (10) **Michigan Invitational Events are scheduled**
- (11) [Robofest 2019 World Championship Schedule](#)
- (12) **\$12,000 LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants**

Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) 2019 Registration is open

We have added new sites! Registration is open for all Qualifying and Open Competition local sites. Please make sure you register soon before your preferable site becomes full.

(2) Robofest Final Rules Published – Check for Updates

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE CHANGES TO THE BOTTLESUMO OPEN CATEGORY RULES THAT INVOLVE ROBOT SIZE AND WEIGHT.

(3) Check your Spam Folder for Robofest Emails

Due to many email platforms tightening their security protocols to reduce phishing, many of the system-generated emails (Robofest – Do Not Reply) are ending up in a spam folder. These important emails include Coach, Team and Volunteer Registration confirmations, Consent Form requests and important announcements. Since email is the official communication tool for coaches, please check your spam folder (and ask parents to check, too) for Robofest emails and select “Not Spam” so you receive them. It is also a good idea to make sure that the email in your Coach Profile is up to date.

(4) Robofest Poster Available

The new 2019 Robofest Promotional Poster is available for you to print from the 2019 Main Page of the [robofest.net](http://www.robofest.net) website http://www.robofest.net/images/1819/robofest_19_poster.pdf. If you would like for us to send you hard copies, please send an email request including the quantity to Pam Sparks (psparks@ltu.edu) and we will send them.

(5) Announcing Robofest eAcademy

Robofest would like to announce the introduction of Robofest eAcademy - a series of online classes developed by Robofest instructors. Course are free this year through the Schoology Learning Management System. Schoology allows students to take classes on line where they can view course material, get assignments, and take quizzes to test knowledge. Courses include:

Game using Lego EV3 and EV3 Language

Game using Lego EV3 and RobotC Language

BottleSumo using Lego EV3 and EV3 Language

Robofest 101- Introduction to Robot Mesh using Robot Mesh Simulator

Game using Vex IQ and Robot Mesh Language

RoboParade using Vex IQ Simulator and Robot Mesh

Access information for each class can be found on the “Tech Resources” page of the robofest.net website.

<https://www.robofest.net/index.php/tech-resources>

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

LAST CALL FOR TEAMS: We are looking for local teams who would like to participate in the mock competition to train Site Hosts and Judges on Saturday, Feb 16, 2019 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm. Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf>

Please register and pay the registration fee for a local qualifier to be eligible. Send an email to spalonis@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.**

ALL 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>

(7) 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.

To register your students, select *Available Workshops* on the registration page.

- EV3 Workshops for Game at LTU:
 - Feb 9, 1:00pm-4pm
- EduBot Workshop for Vision Centric Challenge (Vcc) with Python at LTU:
 - Mar 2, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm

(8) 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.

(9) “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.

(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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