

Robofest e-Newsletter, 10-30-18

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Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) 20th Anniversary Robofest Kickoff Meetings:

Site Hosts, coaches, volunteers and corporate partners ~ please join us for our next kickoff meeting to celebrate and introduce the rules for our 20th Robofest season this **Friday, November 2, 2018** at 6:00 pm in our Computer Science Robotics Lab, Room J234 in the Taubman Complex at LTU. Dinner will be served at 6 pm and we will start the presentation at 6:15 pm. RSVP for dinner by Thu 11/1 Noon here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/YdvNmxqoF78FpBbc2>

If you cannot attend in person, please join us through Zoom Webinar from your PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android. The link <https://zoom.us/j/2482043568> will be open at 6:00 pm. We will also record the presentation and upload it to our website if you cannot attend or if you would like to share it with others.

(2) Robofest US Kickoff Rules Published – Feedback Requested:

The 2018-2019 Robofest General Rules have been released and can be found on the *Get Involved/2019 Main* page on the www.robofest.net website. The 2018-2019 Robofest US Kickoff Game Rules have been also posted to the *Get Involved/Game* page. If you have any questions or comments regarding the General or Game Rules, please send them to spalonis@ltu.edu. We will review all responses and address them in the Final US release in January.

(3) US Registration to Open November 5, 2018:

We will open US Game and Exhibition Team Registration on November 5. Any team wishing to register for a workshop in January or February must be enrolled and registration fee paid. Since not all the sites have come on line yet, we have created a "Pre-Registration" site for teams to register and pay. Once all the sites are finalized, we will transfer the registration to the official qualifier.

(4) Available Grants for Robofest Teams:

Coaches and teachers have many opportunities to secure grant money for teams to purchase equipment, pay registration fees or fund travel expenses. Deadlines are listed for each separate entity.

a) NDIA Sponsorship for Robofest: Deadline is November 20, 2018

The NDIA-MI is looking for dedicated schools and organizations in need of additional funding for their STEM department in order to purchase new equipment, team kits or even transportation. If your school or organization is interested in applying for a sponsorship or donation, please complete the Sponsorship and Donation Request Form found at <http://www.ndia-mich.org/stem/sponsorships>.

b) MCWT Grant for All-Girl Robofest Teams: Deadline is December 16, 2018

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, 15-year sponsor of Robofest, just announced that they are once again providing \$500 grants for up to six all-girl Robofest teams for the 2019 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information and the application has been posted to their webpage https://mcwt.smapply.io/prog/robofest_grant/

c) MEEMIC Be the ONE for the many Grant: Deadline is December 31, 2018

The Meemic Foundation has partnered with Office Depot. If your application is selected, your nominated school will receive a \$500 credit to use exclusively through our grant funding online portal at Office Depot. <https://www.meemic.com/the-meemic-foundation/grant-opportunities/for-our-schools-grant.aspx>

(5) Robofest Office in Search of Used EV3 Kits:

Robofest office is looking for donations of used EV3 robot kits. If you have an EV3 Robot Kit 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 spalonis@ltu.edu if you have a kit that you would like to donate.

(6) New BottleSumo Weight and Size Rules for Junior and Senior Teams:

Be sure to check out the new Weight and Size Requirements for both the Junior and Senior BottleSumo categories for 2019. Rules have been posted to the *Get Involved/BottleSumo* page.

(7) Media Release and Consent Form with Privacy Policy is Now Online:

We have recently made the changes to the Robofest Registration System that now requires coaches to agree to the Privacy Policy and Consent and Release Form online each time they register a team (selection box). Also, the student form can be **completed by the parent** electronically through the registration system:

- On the team registration page, the coach will enter the "Parent Email" for each student.
- The parent will receive an automated email with a link to view and complete the form online.
- If the coach does not have the parent's email at the time of registration the coach can:
 - o enter his/her own email address, and the automated email will be sent to the coach who can then forward the email with the link to the parent OR
 - o can leave it blank and then add the parent's email at a later date. (before the freeze date of the event)
- If no electronic form is submitted electronically by the parent, the coach must submit a paper form, signed by the parent, during their event check-in. <https://robofest.net/ConsentReleaseForm1819.pdf>

(8) Seeking Site Hosts for 2018~19 Competitions:

Robofest is still seeking site hosts for the 2018~19 year for Robofest Game and Exhibition Qualifiers as well as BottleSumo and RoboParade open events in March ~ April of 2019. We hope to have all sites ready for team registration, which is set to open in early November 2018. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at spalonis@ltu.edu or visit

<https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts>

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