

Robofest e-Newsletter, 11-19-18

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Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) US Registration Open

Teams can now register for competitions.

Any team wishing to register for a workshop in January or February must be registered and fee paid. For Michigan teams, 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. Once other sites open, we can easily transfer your team to the new site. Webinars are also scheduled for teams outside Michigan and all around world.

(2) 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) Robot Mesh Studio Programming Software-Desktop Version

Robot Mesh has partnered with Robofest to provide a free 1 year license for the desktop version of their Robot Mesh Studio programming software to Robofest teams. Robot Mesh specializes in supporting robotics in the classroom, after-school competitions/activities or in the home. Robot Mesh Studio is a programming environment for VEX IQ robots. Robot Mesh Studio provides drag-and-drop graphical programming in Blockly (like Scratch) and Flowol as well as coding in Python.

Contact esantos@ltu.edu with your registered team ID to obtain instructions to get your license key.

(3) New Robofest Workshops in 2019

The workshops schedule is still being finalized but we have two exciting opportunities coming up in January. Workshops will be held in the LTU Computer Science Robotics Lab, Room J234 in the Taubman Complex.

A) “Robofest 101” EV3 Workshop: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm. This workshop is an opportunity for anyone including coaches, mentors, students, and parents to learn the basics of EV3 programming for Lego EV3 Robots. Participants do **not** need to be part of a registered team to attend this workshop. Please RSVP <https://goo.gl/Dpcj3C>

B) VEX IQ workshops Coming soon, we are expanding our offering this year to include Robot Mesh programming for Vex IQ Robots. Teams must be registered for a qualifying competition attend. Registration will open soon on the Robofest.net website.

(4) “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 if you need assistance logging in.

(5) Robofest US Kickoff Rules Published – Feedback Requested before FINAL KICKOFF

MEETING/WEBINAR:

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 robofest@ltu.edu. We will review all responses and address them in the Final US release on January 12, 2019 at 10:00 am ~ 11:30 am during the final kickoff meeting and webinar. The link for the Zoom webinar link will be posted on the [robofest.net](http://www.robofest.net) website on January 8.

(6) LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants

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). Submit an application, along with a 400-word essay regarding your Robofest experience, your career goals, and a letter of recommendation from one of your Robofest adult coaches or mentors to apply. Robofest can assist with the recommendation letter if desired. The deadline to apply is April 1. To find more information and download the application, visit <https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>

(7) 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>

(8) 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 robofest@ltu.edu if you have a kit that you would like to donate.

Lawrence Technological University / Robofest / J-233 / 21000 W. Ten Mile, Southfield, MI 48075

CJ Chung, Professor, Director, chung@ltu.edu

Elmer Santos, Assistant Director, esantos@ltu.edu

Shannan Palonis, Coordinator, spalonis@ltu.edu

Pam Sparks, Coordinator, psparks@ltu.edu

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