

Robofest e-Newsletter, 12-13-18

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Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) Robofest in Latin America

We are excited to announce that Robofest has expanded to include all of Latin America. Teams from Latin American countries will participate in a regional competition on March 29 and 30 at Poliforum "Carlos Martínez Balmori" in Pachuca, Mexico. There is still time to register teams. Best of luck to all!

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/283562749152433/>

Team registration at: <https://www.robofestmexico.org>

(2) Robofest in Nigeria

We would like to welcome Baun Stem Robotics in Abuja, Nigeria to the Robofest family. Their competition is scheduled for January 31, 2019. For information, visit their website: <https://baunrobotics.com/>

(3) New "Robofest 101" EV3 Workshop

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 6:30 ~ 9:00 pm in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex

This 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 here: <https://goo.gl/Dpcj3C>

(4) 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 12, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
 - Jan 19, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Jan 19, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
 - Feb 9, 9:00am ~ Noon
- RoboMesh Workshop for VEX IQ at LTU:
 - Jan 26, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Jan 26, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
- 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
 - Feb 9, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm

- EduBot Workshop for Vision Centric Challenge (Vcc) with Python at LTU:
 - Mar 2, 9:00am ~ 4:00pm
- Online classrooms will be available in January 2019. Details will be coming soon.

(5) 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.

(6) “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.

(7) 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.

(8) Robofest 2019 FINAL KICKOFF MEETING/WEBINAR

The final kickoff meeting and webinar will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 10:00am ~ 11:30am in the CS Robotics Lab, Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map:

<https://www.ltu.edu/ltu/map.asp> to review the 2019 rules and answer any questions.

The Zoom webinar link will be posted to the website on January 8.

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

On Saturday, Feb 16, 2019 1:00pm ~ 5:30pm in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/ltu/map.asp>.

Teams who would like to participate should 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

(10) 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) 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/

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

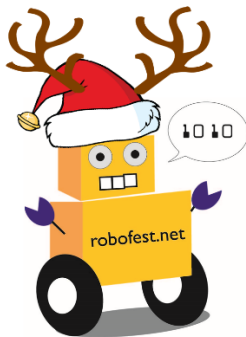
The Meemic Foundation has partnered with Office Depot. If your application is selected, your nominated school will receive a \$500 credit to use exclusively through our grant funding online portal at Office Depot. <https://www.meemic.com/the-meemic-foundation/grant-opportunities/for-our-schools-grant.aspx>

(11) 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.

Happy Holidays!

<https://youtu.be/gGbISmsMnIY>



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<http://www.robofest.net> <http://facebook.com/robofest>