

Robofest e-Newsletter 10-02-19

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Note: All times are listed in EDT

(1) International Rules Posted:

The Robofest 2020 Season International Kickoff General Rules have been released and can be found on the *Get Involved/2020 Main* page on the www.robofest.net website. The 2020 International Robofest Game, Exhibition and Open Category Rules have also been also posted to the Division pages under the *Get Involved* tab. These rules may be modified for the Official US release in November. All rules will be finalized in January 2020.

(2) Robofest Kickoff Meetings:

Site Hosts, coaches, volunteers and corporate partners ~ please join us for one of the upcoming kickoff meetings to introduce the rules for our 21st Robofest season.

On **Friday, October 25, 2019** we are hosting our first Kickoff meeting of the season in our Computer Science Robotics Lab, Room J234 in the Taubman Complex at LTU. Lunch will be served at noon and we will start the presentation at 12:15. Please join us! RSVP for this meeting by 10/23 here: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q8Z3MET7wsxL5kw2>

The meeting will be repeated at the same location on **Friday, November 1** at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served. Please RSVP for this meeting by 10/30 here: <https://goo.gl/forms/YdvNmxqoF78FpBbc2>

(3) New Open Category - RoboMed:

Introducing RoboMed – a new Open Category that will be held at the 2020 Robofest World Championship in May. Teams of High School or College students will create and program (bio) medical robotics/device projects using intelligent & interactive robotics. This competition also promotes an entrepreneurial mindset. Robots must have computational components programmed by participants and must employ sensors and/or actuators. More information can be found on the *Get Involved/RoboMed* page on the www.robofest.net website.

(4) In Search of High School Student Volunteers:

We are looking for High School students with EV3 or VEX IQ experience who are interested in assisting with the Robofest Workshops. Assistants will work with beginning robotics students during the workshops, provide support to the instructor and help with setup and cleanup. Assistants can earn volunteer service hour credits for NHS, School, Scouts, etc. and also the President's Volunteer Service Award, or PVSA (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pam Sparks (psparks@ltu.edu)

(5) MCWT Grant for All-Girl Robofest Teams:

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation has announced that they are once again providing \$500 grants for up to six all-girl Robofest teams for the 2020 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information will be posted to their webpage <http://mcwt.org> as it becomes available.

(6) Seeking Site Hosts for 2019~2020 Competitions:

Robofest is seeking site hosts for the 2020 Competition Season for Robofest Game and Exhibition Qualifiers as well as BottleSumo and RoboParade Open events in the spring of 2020. We hope to have all sites ready for team registration, which is set to open in early November 2019. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at spalonis@ltu.edu or visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts>

(7) Annual Report Posted

The 2018-2019 Robofest Annual Report has been posted to the "What's New" section on the Robofest.net home page: <http://www.robofest.net/2019/robofest19report.pdf>. The Overview video has also been released and can be found at the bottom of the Robofest home page www.robofest.net or directly at: <https://youtu.be/OxFD3fFWOBg>

(8) Updated Privacy Policy

We have updated the Robofest Privacy Policy. Please see the updates here: <https://robofest.net/LTU-Robofest-Privacy-Policy.pdf>

(9) Robofest 2019-2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- October 1, 2019: International Rules will be posted to website – International team registration begins
- October 25, 2019: Kick-off, Official US rules for spring season will be posted
- November, 2019: US Registration opens
- Jan ~ Feb 2020: Technical workshops and webinars for teams
- Feb ~ April 2020: Qualifying competitions for Games and Exhibition in USA
- To be Announced: Michigan Invitational Qualifiers at LTU
- May 14-16, 2020: World Championship at LTU in Michigan

(10) Robofest 2020 World Championship Schedule:

The 21st World Championship Event will be held at LTU in Southfield, MI. Team events on May 14~16 2020 will include the Game and Exhibition Championships as well as the open category events of BottleSumo, RoboParade, RoboArts BottleSumo, Unknown Mission Challenge, and Vision Centric Challenge. The schedule can be found on the robofest.net website: <https://robofest.net/2020/WC20schedule.pdf>



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