Robofest e-Newsletter 11-09-19

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Note: All times are listed in EDT

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(1) US Registration Open
Teams can now register for competitions. Sites are still being added.
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.

(2) US Kickoff Rules Posted - Feedback Requested before FINAL KICKOFF MEETING/WEBINAR:
The Robofest 2020 Season US 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 US Robofest Game, Exhibition and Open Category Rules have also been also posted to the Division pages under the *Get Involved* tab. 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 11, 2020 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 website on January 7.All rules will be finalized in January 2020.

(3) Robot C Virtual World Available for Robofest Teams
No Robot, No Problem! Robot Virtual Worlds (RVW) is a high-end simulation environment that enables students, without robots, to learn programming. Robofest sponsor RoboMatter Inc. is providing free RVW licenses for Robofest teams using VEX robots. If you are interested in using it, please email at robofest@LTU.edu

(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 27, 2019
     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 January 13, 2020
     The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, 16-year sponsor of Robofest, is once again providing $500 grants for up to six all-girl Robofest teams for the 2020 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information and the application has been posted to their webpage: https://mcwt.smapply.io/prog/robofest_grant/

(5) Robofest Workshops:
The workshop schedule is still being finalized but we do have an EV3 for Game workshop scheduled January 18, 2020 8:00 am ~ Noon. Workshops are held in the LTU Computer Science Robotics Lab, Room J234 in the Taubman Complex. As a reminder, to register for a workshop, your team must be registered to compete at a qualifier (or the Michigan Pre-Registration site) and registration fee paid.

(6) Welcome New US and International Site Hosts:
We are excited to welcome new Site Hosts in Wellsville New York, (Hosting the event in Franklinville, NY), Saudi Arabia, Kenya, and Taiwan. We would also like to announce that Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada has entered into an

agreement to become a regional director for the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

(7) 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. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at spalonis@ltu.edu or visit https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts

(8) LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants
High School students who have participated in Robofest at any time and who are planning to attend LTU, can apply for 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

(9) 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.

(10) Robofest 2019-2020 IMPORTANT DATES
- 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

(11) 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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