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**Note: All times are listed in EST**

**(1) Robofest 2016-2017 Kickoff Meetings:**

Plan to attend or view one of the kick-off Meetings (either at LTU or via Webinar) where the rules of the 2017 competition will be announced. The meetings will be held in Room J234 in the new Taubman Complex - Building # 4 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf> Free parking is available in Lot E.

- Friday, December 2, 7:00pm ~ 8:30pm – Local and Webinar
- Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am ~ 11:30 am LOCAL ONLY
- Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:00am ~ 10:30am – Local and Webinar

**(2) IMPORTANT UPDATE -- Robofest 2017 COMPETITION DATES:**

- Saturday, Feb 18, 2017: Warm-Up Competition for Game at LTU
- **UPDATE: Saturday, May 13, 2017: Michigan Championship at LTU**
- Thursday, June 1, 2017: World Championship Robot Drawing Contest in St. Pete Beach, FL
- Friday, June 2, 2017: World Championship RoboParade, BottleSumo and Unknown Mission Challenge in St. Pete Beach, FL
- Saturday, June 3: World Championship Game, Exhibition & GRAF, and Vision Centric Challenge in St. Pete Beach, FL

The link to the webinar is posted on the \*What's New\* section of the Robofest.net home page.

**(3) WISER Conference 2017:**

Call for participation is open for the 2<sup>nd</sup> World conference on Integrated STEaM Education through Robotics (WISER '17) June 2, 2017 in conjunction with World Robofest 2017.

Since robotics is all about STEM and art is tightly connected to all the S. T. E. M. components, interest in integrated \*STEaM learning through robotics\* has been increased. We would like to gather together to share experiences and knowledge and exchange ideas in Robotics education as well as educational robotics for the effective STEaM learning environment.

In addition, we would like to discuss how to advance robotics education and educational robotics ultimately for humanity through the STEaM learning paradigm. Visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/wiser> for more information or to submit an abstract.

**(4) NEW LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants:**

We are very pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for distinguished Robofest team members who attend Lawrence Technological University. Submit your 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 for a chance to earn a \$3,000 renewable scholarship.

Deadline date: April 1st. The application can be found on the LTU.edu website here:

<https://www.ltu.edu/cm/attach/44851ee6-dffc-48f0-8c4e-cb0c0ea8bace/robofestscholarshipform-1.pdf>

#### **(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 2017 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 2016~17 Competitions:**

Robofest is currently seeking site hosts for the 2016~17 season. Hosting opportunities for Robofest Game and Exhibition in February through early April of 2017 are available. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at [robofest@ltu.edu](mailto:robofest@ltu.edu) or visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts>.

#### **(7) Robofest 2017 Workshop Schedule:**

Get your team together to attend a free workshop or webinar to get started or sharpen your skills. The on-site workshops will be held in Room J234 in the new Taubman Complex - Building # 4 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf> Free parking is available in Lot E.

#### **DATES, TIMES AND TITLES SUBJECT TO CHANGE:**

- RoboHit Game:
  - EV3 Workshops at LTU: Jan 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4
  - EV3 Webinars: Jan 24 and Feb 4 (to be recorded)
  - RobotC Workshops at LTU: Jan 28 and Feb 11
- Vcc:
  - L2Bot Workshop at LTU: Mar 4

Only registered and paid Game teams will eligible to register for on campus workshops.

#### **(8) Students in Search of a Robofest Team:**

There are two local students who are in search of a Robofest team. Both are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and both have robotics experience. One lives in Sterling Heights, one in Farmington Hills. If you have room on your team for an eager student, please contact Shannan Palonis, Robofest Coordinator ([spalonis@ltu.edu](mailto:spalonis@ltu.edu)) to get the student's contact information.

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