

Robofest e-Newsletter 10-9-17

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(1) Robofest International Rules Published

The 2017-2018 Robofest General Rules have been released and can be found on the *Get Involved/2018 Main* page on the www.robofest.net website. The 2017-2018 International Robofest Game Rules have been also posted to the *Get Involved/Game* page. These rules may be modified for the Official US release in November.

(2) Robofest 2017-2018 IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2017: Kick-off, Official US rules for spring season will be posted - International competitions begin
- December 1, 2017 US team registration opens
- Jan ~ Feb 2018: Technical workshops and webinars for teams
- Feb ~ April 2018: US and International Qualifying competitions for Games and Exhibition
- Week of April 23, 2018: Michigan Invitational Qualifiers at LTU
- May 17-19, 2018: World Championship and WISER Conference at LTU in Michigan

(3) Robofest Exhibition Competition at MSU sponsored by IEEE Robotics & Automation Society

On Saturday, October 14, IEEE Robotics & Automation Society and Robofest are hosting a competition as part of the Humanitarian Technology Day at Michigan State University. Teams of 2-5 students (7th-12th grades) will exhibit a humanitarian robotics and automation (R&A) project using robotics kits (LEGO MINDSTORMS, TETRIX, VEX, etc.). The project objective must be to tackle and solve a humanitarian problem across the globe. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third places. For rules, information **and to register** visit <http://sites.ieee.org/sb-msu-htc/competitions/>

(4) Young Women's Leadership Conference at LTU

Saturday, October 21, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Architecture Building, A200

LTU is hosting a Young Women's Leadership Conference for Middle School, High School and College students interested in a career in business and/or technology. Keynote speaker is Andrea Rush, Founder, CEO and President of Rush Group. There will also be a Panel on Leadership and Entrepreneurship as well as a Leadership Development Exercise. This event is free of charge, breakfast and lunch provided. Register by October 16: www.ltu.edu/ywlc or contact Maria Hernandez 234.204.3050 | mhernande@ltu.edu

(5) New BottleSumo Division for Senior Teams!!

Due to popularity of the BottleSumo competition at the World Championship event, we are introducing a new division for Senior BottleSumo teams. The *Senior Classic* division is the traditional Robofest BottleSumo event exclusively for LEGO NXT, LEGO EV3 and VEX IQ platforms. The new *Senior Unlimited* division is open to any robot platform. Team size remains the same.

(6) Florida RoboParade and Robot Drawing

The Florida Roboparade and Robot Drawing will be held November 5 from 9am to 3pm at St. Petersburg Beach Recreation Center, 7701 Boca Ciega Drive, St. Pete Beach, FL.

Registration is on open on www.robofest.net RoboParade registration is \$30 per team, Robot Drawing registration is \$20 per individual.

\$20 Site Check-In fee for all registered RoboParade teams and Robot Drawing participants will be collected on the competition day.

(7) Students Looking for Teams

Robofest often receives inquiries from parents looking for teams for their children. We have received 3 individual requests this season:

- Student in 5th grade in Novi Meadows in Novi, interested in Lego Ev3. He has done many mini projects at school before.
- Homeschooled Middle School student recently moved to Farmington Hills
- A 14 year old student in Gaithersburg, Maryland wondering if there is an existing team we can join in the area.

If you have room on your team for a student in your area, please contact Robofest and we will connect you with the student.

(8) Changes to Michigan Advancement Structure

New for 2018, teams will have a second chance to qualify for the World Championship. Michigan teams who participate in local qualifiers will be invited back to compete in small Michigan Invitational Events (10-12 teams) in the CS Robotics Lab during the week of April 23, 2018 instead of one large Michigan Championship. More details will be presented at the Kickoff meeting & webinar in November.

(9) 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 2018 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information will be posted to their webpage <http://mcwt.org> as it becomes available.

(10) Robofest 2018 World Championship Schedule

The 19th Annual Robofest World Championship and WISER Conference will return to LTU in Southfield, MI.

May 17, 2018: Robot Drawing Contest

May 18, 2018: WISER Conference, RoboParade, BottleSumo and Unknown Mission Challenge

May 19, 2018: Game and Exhibition Championships, RoboArts (Formerly GRAF), and Vision Centric Challenge

(11) Official Robofest 2016-2017 Report and Video published

2016-2017 Annual Report: <https://robofest.net/2017/robofest17report.pdf>

2016-2017 Robofest Overview Video (13 min): <https://youtu.be/gLf188cUGTw>

(12) Seeking Site Hosts for 2017~18 Competitions

Robofest is once again seeking site hosts for the 2017~18 year for Robofest Game and Exhibition Qualifiers as well as BottleSumo and RoboParade open categories in Feb ~ early April of 2018. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at robofest@ltu.edu or visit <http://robofest.net/index.php/forsitehosts>

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