

Robofest e-Newsletter 10-30-17

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(1) Robofest International Rules Published – Feedback Requested

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. If you have any questions or comments regarding the General or Game Rules, please send them to robofest@tu.edu, We will review all responses and address them if necessary in the Official US release in November.

(2) Robofest 2017-2018 KICKOFF MEETING/WEBINAR DATES

We will host a series of meetings and webinars to review the 2017-2018 rules and answer any questions.

- Friday, November 17, 1:00pm ~ 2:30pm – LOCAL ONLY/NO WEBINAR
- Saturday, November 18, 2:00pm ~ 3:30pm - Local and Webinar
- Friday, December 1, 7:00pm ~ 8:30pm – Local and Webinar
- Saturday, December 2, 10:00am ~ 11:30am – LOCAL ONLY/NO WEBINAR
- Saturday, January 13, 2017 9:00am ~ 10:30am – Local and Webinar

(3) LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants:

High School Juniors and Seniors who have participated in Robofest at any time and who are planning to attend LTU, could earn a \$3,000 renewable scholarship. 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 1st. **To find more information and download the application, visit <https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>**

(4) Robofest 2017-2018 IMPORTANT DATES

- November 2017: Kickoff (see schedule above), Official US rules 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

(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) Students Looking for Teams

Robofest often receives inquiries from parents looking for teams for their children. We have received 3 individual requests this season: If you have room on your team for a student in your area, please contact Robofest and we will connect you with the student.

- An 11 year old 6th grade student in Farmington, MI
- Student in 5th grade in Novi Meadows in Novi, MI. Has done many mini projects at school before.
- Homeschooled Middle School student recently moved to Farmington Hills, MI
- A 14 year old student in Gaithersburg, Maryland wondering if there is an existing team we can join in the area.

(7) 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 one of several 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 meetings & webinars in November.

(8) 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.

(9) 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

(10) 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>

(11) Seeking Site Hosts for 2017~18 Competitions

Robofest is still 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. **We hope to have all sites ready for team registration, set to open on December 1, 2017.** 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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