

## Robofest e-Newsletter 12-21-17

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Note: All times are listed in Eastern Standard Time

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### (1) MCWT Grant for Michigan All-Girl Robofest Teams

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation is once again providing \$500 grants for up to six all-girl Robofest teams for the 2018 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. The deadline to apply is January 6, 2018. Information and the link to the application has been posted to their webpage [https://www.mcwt.org/Robotics\\_Grants\\_187.html](https://www.mcwt.org/Robotics_Grants_187.html)

### (2) Results of Coach Survey

We recently conducted a survey of coaches who attended the Michigan Championship to get feedback about adult assistance to Game teams during practice time at all qualifier and championship events. The majority of coaches who responded agreed that coaches should not assist teams during practice time. The results of this survey can be found at [https://robofest.net/2018/Survey\\_adult\\_assistance\\_setupTime.pdf](https://robofest.net/2018/Survey_adult_assistance_setupTime.pdf)

### (3) Free RobotC for Robofest Teams

ROBOTC is a C-based programming language for the LEGO MINDSTORMS platforms. It is the only programming language at this level that offers a comprehensive, real-time debugger. Carnegie Mellon, RoboticsAcademy and Robomatter Inc. will provide Robofest 2018 teams with a FREE License of ROBOTC for use in Robofest 2018!

Download RobotC at <http://robotc.net/robofest/> and contact spalonis@ltu.edu with your registered team ID to obtain your license.

### (4) 2018 Registration is open

Registration is open for all Qualifying Competition sites. Additional sites are still being finalized and will be added soon. For Michigan teams, if your preferred site is full and another site is not available, you can register your team for the USA Video Qualifier 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.

### (5) WISER Conference 2018

Call for participation is open for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World conference on Integrated STEaM Education through Robotics (WISER 18) May 18, 2018 in conjunction with World Robofest 2018.

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 for humanity through the STEaM learning paradigm. Visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/wiser> for more information or to submit an abstract.

## **(6) Robofest 2018 Warmup Competition and Judge Training for Game at LTU**

On Saturday, Feb 17, 2018 1:00pm ~ 5:30pm in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 4 on the LTU Campus Map:

<https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf> .

Teams who would like to participate should send an email to [spalonis@ltu.edu](mailto:spalonis@ltu.edu). Check-in for registered teams begins at 1:00 pm and Judge training will start at 1:50 pm

## **(7) Robofest 2018 Workshop Schedule**

The on-site workshops will be held in Room J234 in the 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.

Only registered and paid Game teams are eligible to register for on-campus workshops. To register your students, select \*Available Workshops\* on the registration page.

- **RoboMesh Workshop for VEX IQ at LTU:** Jan 18, 9:00am ~ Noon
- **EV3 Workshops for AtBC Game at LTU:**

Jan 20, 9:00am ~ Noon	Jan 20, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
Jan 27, 9:00am ~ Noon	Feb 3, 9:00am ~ Noon
- **EV3 Online Webinars for AtBC Game** (attend live or review a recording to be made available on the Robofest.net website):

Jan 23, 7:00pm ~ 9:00pm	Feb 3, 2:00pm ~ 3:30pm
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- **RobotC Workshops at for AtBC Game at LTU:**  
Jan 27, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
- **L2Bot Workshop for Vision Centric Challenge (Vcc) at LTU:**  
Mar 4, 9:00am ~ 4:00pm (Tentative)

## **(8) Robofest Kickoff Rules Published – Feedback Requested**

The US Kickoff Version of 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](http://www.robofest.net) website. The 2017-2018 US Kickoff 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@ltu.edu](mailto:robofest@ltu.edu). We will continue to will review all responses and address them in the Kickoff meeting and with Updates posted on the website. The US Final Rules will be locked and published on January 13, 2018.

## **(9) Robofest 2018 FINAL KICKOFF MEETING/WEBINAR**

The final kickoff meeting and webinar to review the 2018 rules and answer any questions will be held in the CS Robotics Lab, Room J234 on Saturday, January 13, 2017 9:00am ~ 10:30am. The webinar link will be posted to the website on January 12.

## **(10) Paid Internship Opportunity in Southeast Michigan (Wixom and Madison Hts.)**

AccelerateKID (<http://www.acceleratekid.com/careers>) is seeking technology and creative people to join their growing startup to help create future creators in young kids. Their goal is to offer a great working experience during a 3-12-month paid internship starting in the spring or summer. They offer competitive pay and full-time opportunity after the internship period for students who are in the engineering and graphic art field. If you are interested, then submit an updated RESUME and COVER LETTER explaining why you are a good fit for AccelerateKID to [hello@acceler8kid.com](mailto:hello@acceler8kid.com).

## **(11) 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.

## **(12) 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **(13) 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 (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<sup>st</sup>. **To find more information and download the application, visit <https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>**

### **(14) Robofest 2018 World Championship Schedule**

The 19<sup>th</sup> 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

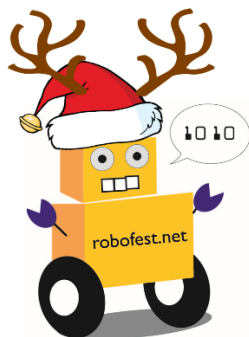
May 19, 2018: Game and Exhibition Championships, RoboArts (Formerly GRAF), and Vision Centric Challenge

### **(15) Seeking Site Hosts for 2018 Competitions – LAST CALL**

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

Happy Holidays!

<https://youtu.be/gGbISmsMnLY>



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