Robofest e-Newsletter 01-13-21

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Note: All times are listed in EST
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(1) - MCWT Grant for All-Girl Robofest Teams: Deadline is February 19, 2021
The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, 17-year sponsor of Robofest, is once again providing $500 grants for up to Ten Michigan all-girl Robofest teams for the 2021 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information and the application have been posted to their webpage:
https://www.mcwt.org/programs/list/K-12-Initiatives/ROBOTICS-GRANTS

(2) Robofest 2021 Workshop Schedule
All of the 2021 workshops will be held online through the Zoom platform. Note that additional workshops may be added based on the demand. To register your students, select *Available Workshops* on the left menu of the registration page on Robofest.net.
> SCRATCH – AI and Machine Learning - Sat, Jan 16, 10:00am ~ Noon
> Robot Mesh - VEX IQ for Game - Sat, Feb 13, 9:00am ~ Noon
> SCRATCH – Robot Inventor /SPIKE Prime - Sat, Feb 20, 9:00am ~ Noon
> EV3 for Game - Sat, Feb 20, 1:00pm ~ 4:00

(3) International Game Rules Posted
The 2021 International Robofest Game Rules *StackRolls* has been posted to the *Get Involved/Game* page of the www.robofest.net website. The final version of the Game rules document will be released on Feb 6.

Also, on Feb 6, the Robofest 2021 Season General Rules will be posted on the *Get Involved/2021 Main* page on website, and all other category rules for the 2021 season will be posted to the Division pages under the *Get Involved* tab.

(4) Robofest 2021 Warmup Competition and Judge Training for Game Online
Saturday, March 13, 2021 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm Online through the Zoom Platform.
We are looking for a few interested teams to participate in the Warm Up competition before the Robofest Qualifiers begin. The main purpose for this event is to train judges for the upcoming season. Please only one Game team per coach. Coaches and Judges who would like to participate should send an email to Shannan Palonis (spalonis@ltu.edu) to request a slot. We encourage Site Hosts and Volunteer Game Judges to attend.

(5) Seeking Site Hosts for 2021 Competitions
Robofest is seeking site hosts for the Competition Season for Robofest Game, BottleSumo Time Trial, and Exhibition Style Qualifiers the spring of 2021. Sites can host their own Local Online, Video or In-Person Qualifier events this season. More information will be sent to format site hosts and posted to the Robofest website *For Site Hosts* https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts

(6) Robofest 2021 IMPORTANT DATES
Feb 6, 2021: Official US rules for spring season will be posted
Feb 6, 2021: US Pre-Registration opens
Jan ~ March, 2021: Online Technical workshops for teams
Feb ~ Jul 2021:

Qualifying competitions in USA
In-person local qualifiers, if possible
Local Online and Video Qualifiers by Site Hosts around world (via Zoom or other platforms)
Online Qualifiers, USA Video Qualifier and International Video Qualifier hosted by Robofest Office
May ~ July: 2nd chance Online Qualifiers hosted by Robofest Office
Robofest World Championship will be in August in person on LTU campus OR online format with events starting in August and ending in October

(7) Free ROBOTC for EV3 and NXT Software for Registered Robofest Teams
Once again, Carnegie Mellon, Robotics Academy and Robomatter Inc. partners with Robofest in order to provide teams with a FREE annual License of ROBOTC for use in LTU Robofest 2021! ROBOTC is a cross-robotics-platform (LEGO Mindstorms and VexIQ) solution that allows students to learn the type of C-based programming used in advanced education and professional applications. It is the only programming language at this level that offers a comprehensive, real-time debugger.
Download ROBOTC for Mindstorms at http://robotc.net/ and contact esantos@ltu.edu with your registered team ID (Or Coach ID) to obtain your license key.

(8) Technical Tutors Wanted
Robofest is looking for volunteers to conduct online technical workshops and assist teams during the upcoming season. Please complete the Google Form if you are interested:
https://forms.gle/NPZSCbEQEqJkwbBJ6

(9) 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 a 400-word essay describing your Robofest experience and your career goals, a letter of recommendation from one of your Robofest adult coaches or mentors, and the Scholarship Application by **May 1.** To find more information visit:
https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3

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