

Robofest e-Newsletter 12-17-2020

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Note: All times are listed in EST

[\(1\) Robofest 2021 Kickoff Presentation Slides and Video Posted](#)

The Robofest 2021 Season Kickoff meeting was held on December 3, 2020. The Presentation slides and recorded meeting have been uploaded to the Robofest.net 2021 Main Page:

<https://robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/main-page>

[\(2\) 2021 Game "StackRolls" Draft Rules and Demo Video Uploaded](#)

The 2021 Game has been announced and draft rules and related documents have been posted on the "Get Involved/Game" page.

StackRolls Draft Rules PDF: <http://www.robofest.net/2021/stackRolls0.pdf>

StackRolls Demonstration Video: <https://youtu.be/ZpRWPpylj2w>

The rules will be finalized and registration will be open on February 6, 2021. If you have any questions about the rules that you would like to have clarified, please send an email to Shannan Palonis (spalonis@ltu.edu) and we will answer them in the FAQ and/or update the rules to add clarity. If your question is in regard to a specific strategy that you would not like to share with the Robofest community, please let us know in your inquiry. We will make the final decision to add to the FAQ, especially if the strategy is against the rules.

[\(3\) Dr. Christopher Cartwright named as Robofest Director](#)

Dr. Cartwright, Associate Professor of Math and Computer Science at LTU has been involved with Robofest since 2005 and has been the Chief Game Judge since 2013. He will be taking over the position of Robofest Director effective January 1, 2021.

[\(4\) Online Workshop Opportunity: ML \(Machine Learning\) with Scratch](#)

Saturday, January 9, 2021, 10:00 am ~ Noon (through the Zoom Meeting app)

Saturday, January 16, 2021, 10:00 am ~ Noon (through the Zoom Meeting app)

The difficult levels of the above 2 sessions are similar, but different projects will be introduced.

Team Size: up to 2 students (5th ~ 12th grade students)

Pre-requisite: at least one year of coding experience is required.

Team's laptop must have Bluetooth, camera, microphone, and Internet access.

Workshop Learning Objectives:

- Learn the concept of Machine Learning (ML): Collect Data, Train, and Test
- Use the machine learning models trained to make apps in Scratch

Once registered in the Robofest Registration System, each coach will receive a Zoom online class form link by email. <https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getWorkshopsTable>

[\(5\) MCWT Grant for All-Girl Robofest Teams](#)

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, the application and deadline will be posted to their webpage: <https://mcwt.org/programs/list/K-12-Initiatives/ROBOTICS-GRANTS>

(6) 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>

(7) LTU Scholarship Opportunity for all Robofest Participants

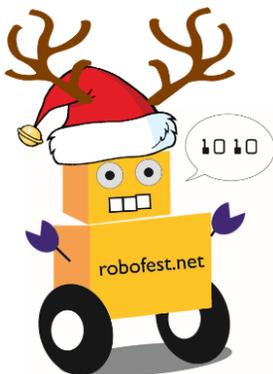
High School students who have participated in Robofest at any time and who are planning to attend LTU, can apply for a \$3,000 renewable scholarship (Total of \$12,000). Submit a 400-word essay describing your Robofest experience and your career goals, a letter of recommendation from one of your Robofest adult coaches or mentors, and the Scholarship Application by **May 1**. To find more information visit: <https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>

(8) Robofest Annual Report Posted

The 2019-2020 Robofest Annual Report has been posted to the "What's New" section on the Robofest.net home page or directly at: <https://www.robofest.net/2020/robofest20report.pdf> The report includes site and team statistics as well as links to the anonymous survey results.

Happy Holidays!!

<https://youtu.be/RHbyHFhXopo>



Lawrence Technological University / Robofest / J-233 / 21000 W. Ten Mile, Southfield, MI 48075

CJ Chung, Professor, Founder & Director, chung@ltu.edu

Christopher Cartwright, Professor, cwright@ltu.edu

Elmer Santos, Assistant Director, esantos@ltu.edu

Shannan Palonis, Coordinator, spalonis@ltu.edu

Pam Sparks, Coordinator, psparks@ltu.edu

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