



LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
ROBOFEST

**A Competition
Motivating
Young Minds to
Master the Machine**

ROBOFEST 2021-2022 International Site Host Organizer Information

Robofest is an annual international autonomous robotics competition for 4th – 12th grade and college students. Robofest provides an environment for students to design, construct and program their robots while learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), computer science, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

In order to make this playful learning opportunity available to more students, Lawrence Technological University (LTU) relies on Site Hosts to manage official Robofest local qualifying competitions. Being a Site Host provides great visibility for your school or organization. It is an opportunity for you to showcase your current students, staff and facility to prospective students and their parents, major media outlets, and the community at large. If you are a Community Group or Business, you can coordinate events to provide your staff with opportunities for STEM Outreach in your local area. Robofest local qualifying competitions can be half-day (4 hour) events, since the Robofest philosophy is to keep them simple, but focused.

LTU provides approved Site Hosts with the following, free of charge:

1. Promotion of your organization as an Official Site Host for Robofest

- Official posters with your organization's name recognized as an Official Site Host & Organizer
- Logos, web links and other information about your site, your organization, and your local sponsors posted at www.robofest.net
- Site flyer template to introduce Robofest and help recruit teams
- Recognition of your site in the Official Robofest Video
- A plaque of appreciation from LTU for Site Host Organizer and/or venue

2. Information management (Optional*)

- Team and volunteer registration on the Robofest website allowing Site Host access
- Admin account to help recruit and manage event site volunteers, and access team & volunteer information

3. Competition preparation (Optional*)

- Provision of game-specific official playing field materials for your site
- Detailed Procedures Document to help you plan, manage, and set up your competition
- Webinars, PowerPoint files, and streaming videos to train judges, volunteers and students
- Hard copies or electronic forms for judges and overall competition scoring

4. Event support (Optional*)

- Official Robofest banner, directional yard signs, and team table signs
- Judge and volunteer apparel or small gifts *for registered Site Event Volunteers*
- Name badges for all registered students, coaches, and event volunteers
- Template file for printed program for your competition event

5. Participant recognition at your site (Optional*)

- Personalized certificates AND/OR participation medals for every student registered in the Robofest registration system
- Personalized certificates for every Coach and Assistant Coach registered in the system
- **NOTE:** Site Host must purchase all awarded trophies locally and will receive reimbursement of UP TO \$10 per team of collected registration fees to assist with cost. The maximum number of trophies eligible for reimbursement is 20% of teams per division.

*International Site Hosts have the option to use their own registration system and collect their own site fees. More information can be found in “Robofest International Site Host Registration and Fee Options– 2021-2022”.

Site Host Application Process:

1. All international organizations/sites desiring to host a Robofest competition can submit a **New Site Application** on the robofest.net website OR complete a hard copy **Robofest International Site Host Organizer Application Form** and forward it (PDF or Word Document) to LTU via email to spalonis@ltu.edu
2. After receiving your application, a LTU Robofest official may contact you to discuss further details involved with site hosting.
3. Robofest office will evaluate the application. Robofest reserves the right to select Site Hosts at its own discretion based on multiple factors including volume of potential participants, geographic location, preparation, and historic and predicted success.
4. **Once the Site has been approved, an official Letter of Agreement (LOA) will be completed and signed by LTU Robofest Director in PDF and will be emailed to you. The LOA specifies requirements for both LTU and the Site Host, based on the option selected for registration and fee options.**
5. **Upon receipt, the Site Host will complete their section of the LOA and return it to the Robofest office.**
6. LTU will make an official announcement of your site and will include your event in all official correspondence.

If you have questions regarding Robofest or hosting, please review “FAQ about International Robofest Site Hosting” or contact:

Shannan Palonis
Robofest Coordinator
spalonis@ltu.edu
PH: (248) 204-3568

www.robofest.net
facebook.com/robofest

www.LTU.edu
Robofest Headquarters, J233
Lawrence Technological University,
21000 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48075, U.S.A.



FAQ about International ROBOFEST Site Hosting

What is the cost to host a Robofest Qualifying Competition? – If you select the Registration Management System Option and LTU collects the registration fees (Option 1), Robofest provides most of the items you need to host a Robofest competition at no cost to the Site Host. We will send medals, certificates, signs, name tags, and game-specific playing field materials. For your *registered* Site Event Volunteers (not team volunteers), we will send volunteer apparel or small gifts. **There will be some minimal expense to the Site Host such as the (reimbursable) cost to purchase trophies, or rent tables and chairs, paper for programs or office supplies.**

Is there any revenue received as a Site Host? – For Option 1, Site Hosts may charge an optional Site Check-In Fee of up to USD \$20 per team at check-in. For Options 2 and 3, Site Hosts can set the cost of registration to cover all costs and desired revenue.

We also encourage you to seek out your own local sponsors to help with expenses associated with hosting a competition site. It is encouraged to place local sponsor logos on your printed program. You may have a concession stand to sell food and beverages. You may also have the opportunity to sell Robofest promotional items such as T-shirts, gifts, etc.

Can we host other Robofest Open Categories such as BottleSumo, RoboArts, RoboParade, or UMC? – Yes. International teams may advance to the World Championship events on May 12~14, 2022 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI. The schedule of events can be found on the World Championship page at www.robofest.net. **The number of teams allowed to advance from all divisions will be determined prior to your competition date.**

What type of facility do I need for a site? – A gym or a large multipurpose room such as a cafeteria or banquet room, if it has consistent lighting. (Rooms with large skylights or uncovered windows are *not* recommended as the direct sunlight can adversely affect robot sensors.) Gyms work the best because you can utilize the in-house sound system, bleachers, and scoreboard for timing the games. The number of teams competing at your site will be limited based on your facility size. The facility must be large enough to accommodate:

- **Competition Area** (Game, BottleSumo or RoboParade categories) - Official playing fields and practice playing fields
- **Secure Pit Area** (Game, BottleSumo or RoboParade categories) – Work table with chairs and power for each team – Limit access to students only. We suggest 6~8 foot tables, or round banquet tables
- **Exhibition area** - (Exhibition category) One 6~8 foot table per team with additional floor space for team exhibits and judge/spectator access
- **Audience seating** - Chairs or bleachers with a stage or central area for opening and award ceremony

When should the Robofest Qualifying Competition be scheduled? – Plan for small (up to 30 teams in 1 or 2 divisions) competitions to run 4~5 hours and larger competitions a full day. We suggest all international competitions take place between early November and early March to accommodate visa requirements for

advancing teams to travel to the US for the World Robofest Championships, to be held in at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI on May 12~14, 2022.

Who will compete at our Competition Site? – To be a Site Host for an official Robofest competition, you must have a minimum of 5 teams for each competition category age division registered at your site. You can select the maximum number of teams, number of age divisions, and categories that you would like to host. We will work with you to identify the right number of teams for your location. If you choose to use the Robofest Registration Management System, Robofest Teams select their own Qualifying Site when they register on-line on the Robofest website. Robofest will work to promote your site location. You will receive a login name and password that will give you access to the team registration information for your site. You will have the ability to send email messages to registered coaches pertinent to your Qualifying Site.

Can I host more than one Category and Age Division at my site? – You can select the maximum number of teams, number of age divisions, and categories that you would like to host. **For first-time Site Hosts, we recommend selecting only one category and age division.** For returning Site Hosts, we recommend selecting only 1 ~ 2 categories/age divisions in order to complete the entire event in four hours. We will work with you to identify the right number of teams for your location.

How many Site Event Volunteers do I need for my Site? – Your Site has a minimum of 4 “Executive” volunteers (Site Host, Registration, Master of Ceremonies and Chief Judge) PLUS the amount required to manage each category and age division. Robofest will work with you to identify how many Site Event Volunteers you need for your site to run smoothly. Robofest has an online volunteer registration system (if you choose this option) that will identify the number of volunteers needed at your site, based on the number of teams and categories/age divisions. The online registration system will also provide a job description for each volunteer. As the Site Host, you will receive administrator privileges to access volunteer information in the Registration Management System and send emails to all registered Volunteers.

How do I train Robofest Judges? – Robofest offers Judges training through live online meetings, webinars, or streaming videos. Robofest also holds a Warmup competition, usually in February, for Judges who can travel to LTU to judge practice rounds. **We encourage each International Site Host to hold similar Warmup events.**

Do I need a DJ for my Site? – We prefer that you use an in-house sound system and do not hire a DJ. We have found that the music can be distracting to teams while they are solving problems. We ask each site to have Master of Ceremonies (emcee) who presides over the event and makes the major announcements to teams and the audience.

Do I need to prepare a printed program for my Site? – We ask Site Hosts to print a program for the day of the competition. This program identifies your site sponsors, Robofest sponsors, and the teams participating at your site. We will supply a template file with Robofest sponsor logos and the team information (if you choose this option).