



Robofest eNewsletter 09-20-23

- (1) [AI and Machine Learning with Scratch Coding Workshop for Everyone](#)
- (2) **Fall UMC Scholarship Competition and Workshop for High School Students**
- (3) [2024 Season Kickoff Dates](#)
- (4) **State of Michigan 99h Robotics Competition Grant now includes Robofest**
- (5) [Technical Committee Members Announced](#)
- (6) **Seeking Site Hosts for 2024 Competitions**

Note: All times are listed in Eastern Time unless noted

---

### (1) [AI and Machine Learning with Scratch Coding Workshop for Everyone](#)

The use of AI has been encouraged in Robofest exhibition style competitions since 2023. Dr. CJ Chung, Robofest Founder, is conducting an AI and Machine Learning with Scratch Coding Workshop for teams of 1 to 2 students in grades 5~12.

**Sat, Oct 7, 2023, 1:00 PM ~ 4:00 PM**

At Lawrence Technological University, Robofest Lab, J234

21000 West 10 Mile Road, Southfield Michigan 48075

Building No. 8 on the LTU campus map: <https://www.ltu.edu/about/map> Use parking lot E.

Agenda: (1) Intro to AI/ML/DL (2) Intro to Scratch coding (3) Intro to math equations (4) Intro to Teachable-Machine (5) Collecting image datasets and training with Teachable-Machine (6) Coding the Hand-MathDance Game.

Prerequisite: at least one year of coding experience is highly recommended.

Bring your computer (PC or Mac) per team with a built-in webcam & any Internet browser.

Register for this FREE workshop at:

[https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=WS\\_AI\\_Scratch\\_Coding\\_Oct7](https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=WS_AI_Scratch_Coding_Oct7)

### (2) **Fall UMC Scholarship Competition and Workshop for High School Students**

Robofest is hosting a very special Unknown Mission Challenge this fall for High School students to compete to win a \$17,000 Annual LTU Scholarship. Individual students will be challenged to build and program a robot kit to solve a task in a limited amount of time. The registration fee is \$25. Review the 2023 UMC Rules on the UMC page for the list Robot Kits allowed:

<https://www.robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/unknown-mission-challenge>

**Competition: Sat, Nov 4, 2023, 1:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM**

At Lawrence Technological University, Robofest Lab, J234

21000 West 10 Mile Road, Southfield Michigan 48075

Building No. 8 on the LTU campus map: <https://www.ltu.edu/about/map> Use parking lot E.

Register at:

[https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=UMC\\_Scholarship\\_LTU](https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=UMC_Scholarship_LTU)

A free workshop has been scheduled for registered students to prepare for the competition using VEX IQ robot kits and VEXCodeIQ. Students who attend the UMC workshop may borrow a VEX IQ robot kit for the competition on November 4.

**Workshop: Sat, Oct 21, 2023, 1:00 PM ~ 5:00 PM**

At Lawrence Technological University, Robofest Lab, J234

Registration link:

[https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=WS\\_UMC\\_Oct21&superAdminMenu=1&siteAdminMenu=1&coachMenu=1](https://www.robofest.net/rms/SharedPagesServlet?cmd=getGenericSiteWebPage&year=2024&location=WS_UMC_Oct21&superAdminMenu=1&siteAdminMenu=1&coachMenu=1)

### (3) 2024 Season Kickoff Meetings

The Robofest 2024 Season Rules will be released on Saturday, September 30, 2023. There will be a series of kickoff meetings to review the rules for clarification prior to the final release in November.

The kickoff meetings will be held:

**Friday, October 6, 2023** 9:00am ~ 10:30am (Zoom only)

**Thursday, November 2, 2023** 7:00pm ~ 8:30pm (In person and Zoom)

**Saturday, January 13, 2024** 10:00am ~ 11:30 am (In person and Zoom)

The Zoom links are posted on the 2024 Main Page (under the Get Involved tab) on the [robofest.net](http://robofest.net) website.

### (4) State of Michigan 99h Robotics Competition Grant now includes Robofest

Robofest is an official program provider for the Michigan Department of Education 99h Robotics Competition Grant which provides funding to Public School Districts, Intermediate School Districts, and Nonpublic Schools to participate in Robofest. Grants for 2023/2024 teams (between \$500 and \$1,200) and Coach Stipends (between \$1,000 and \$1,500) will be available for Robofest teams that are pre-registered in the Robofest Registration system by December 31, 2023. (Pre-registration is open for all categories) More information and detailed instructions is available on the Michigan Department of Education website. <https://www.techplan.org/edtech-initiatives/rdi/competitive-99h-robotics-competition-grant/>

“Introduction to Robofest Coaching” Workshops for new coaches will be scheduled soon to introduce the 99h grant Robofest opportunity and offer coaching strategies for a successful team experience.

### (5) Technical Committee Members Announced

The 2023/2024 Robofest Competition Category technical committees have been formed. Each committee has been working to define/design/refine competition rules, and members will be involved in judging World Championship events and qualifying competitions. A short Bio of each committee member has been posted on the category pages of the Robofest website. Thank you to all who volunteered:

Game	Exhibition	BottleSumo	RoboArts
Elmer Santos (*)	Shannan Palonis (*)	Elmer Santos (*)	Pam Sparks (*)
John Arnold	Ben Gonzalez	Chris Parker	Kevin Gallatin
Chris Cartwright	Jelani Stowers	Peter Guenther	Erik Rosvold
Peter Guenther	David Carbery	David Carbery	Curtis Sharif
Wisam Bukaita	Ajay Choudhary	Karthik Devaraj	Nathan Enright
CJ Chung	Elmer Santos	CJ Chung	Elmer Santos
	CJ Chung		CJ Chung
UMC	RoboMed	RoboParade	Vcc
Elmer Santos (*)	Yawen Li (*)	Pam Sparks (*)	Erik Rosvold (*)
Curtis Sharif	Choongbae Park	Kevin Gallatin	Tejas Patil
Daniel Oliver	Hao Jiang	Katie Bis	Rodrigo Rodriguez
Destiny Anyaiwe	Aleksandra Kuzmanov	Daniel Oliver	Emily Trudell
Scott Eisele	CJ Chung (*)	Jennifer Minuado	Nathaniel Johnson
CJ Chung		Elmer Santos	Steven Lowe, Jr.
		CJ Chung	CJ Chung

(\*) Category Chairperson

### (6) Seeking Site Hosts for Competitions

Robofest is seeking site hosts for the 2023-2024 Competition Season for Robofest Game and Exhibition Qualifiers as well as Open events. We hope to have all sites registered and ready for team registration in early November 2023. Interested individuals, organizations, or schools should contact the Robofest office at [robofest@ltu.edu](mailto:robofest@ltu.edu) or visit <https://robofest.net/index.php/for-site-hosts> for more information or to download the application.

---

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

Prof Elmer Santos, Director, [esantos@ltu.edu](mailto:esantos@ltu.edu)

Shannan Palonis, Assistant Director, [spalonis@ltu.edu](mailto:spalonis@ltu.edu)

Pam Sparks, Coordinator, [psparks@ltu.edu](mailto:psparks@ltu.edu)

Dr. CJ Chung, Founder, Executive Council Chair, [cchung@ltu.edu](mailto:cchung@ltu.edu)

<http://www.robofest.net> <http://facebook.com/robofest> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/robofest-official>