Robofest eNewsletter 10-26-23

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Note: All times are listed in Eastern Time unless noted

(1) Fall UMC Scholarship Competition 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. Rules and registration link can be found on the UMC page: https://www.robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/unknown-mission-challenge

> **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.

This event is open to the public.

(2) Vision Centric Challenge Returns for 2024 Season
The 2024 Vcc rules *Vision Based Measurement System* will be posted to the Robofest website on November 2, 2023. The objective of this challenge is to use vision-based robots to complete a series of inspections. This challenge will introduce teams to real-world manufacturing inspection processes. The event will be hosted during the Robofest World Championship on May 9-11 (exact date TBD). Pre-registration is open for Senior Division teams. Winners of the Vcc will receive a $17,000 annual LTU Scholarship certificate.

(3) MCWT Grants for All-Girl Robofest Teams
The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, a Gold Sponsor of Robofest, is once again providing $750 grants for up to ten Michigan all-girl Robofest teams for the 2024 Robofest Game and Exhibition competitions. More information and the 2024 season application are now available on the MCWT webpage: https://mcwt.org/programs/list/K-12-Initiatives/ROBOTICS-GRANTS

(4) 2024 Season Rules Released
The Robofest 2024 initial season rules have been released. Join us for an upcoming kickoff meeting to review the rules for clarification prior to the final release.

The kickoff meetings will be held:
> **Thursday, November 2, 2023** 7:00pm ~ 8:30pm (In person Room E201 and Zoom)
> **Saturday, January 13, 2024** 10:00am ~ 11:30 am (In person and Zoom)

The Zoom links are posted The Zoom links are posted on the robofest.net home page.

(5) Pre-season Workshop Schedule Announced
Workshops are available at no cost to registered 2024 Teams. They are held in the Computer Science Robotics Lab on LTU Campus, robots and laptops are provided. workshop materials will be made available on the eAcademy/Workshops page.

VEX IQ with VEXcode for Game
Saturday, 1/20/24: 9:00 am ~ 12:00 noon
LEGO EV3 with Scratch for Game
Saturday, 1/20/24: 1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm
Saturday, 1/27/24: 9:00 am ~ 12:00 noon
LEGO SPIKE Prime/Robot Inventor with Scratch for Game
Saturday, 1/27/24: 1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm
LEGO SPIKE Prime/Robot Inventor with Python for Game
Saturday, 2/3/24: 1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm
NEW for 2024! **Intro to Exhibition using LEGO EV3 with Scratch**
Saturday, 2/3/24: 1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm

(6) 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 1, 2023. (Pre-registration is open for all categories). More information and detailed instructions are 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.

(7) 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 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
Shannan Palonis, Assistant Director, spalonis@ltu.edu
Pam Sparks, Coordinator, psparks@ltu.edu
Dr. CJ Chung, Founder, Executive Council Chair, cchung@ltu.edu
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