



Robofest eNewsletter 09-10-24

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Note: All times are listed in Eastern Time unless noted

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### [\(1\) MathDance Hands-on Workshop offered through United Nations AI for Good](#)

The MathDance program offers a unique learning experience by integrating math, physical activities, coding, and AI. Developed by Dr. CJ Chung, a Professor of Computer Science and Founder of Robofest, this program provides an innovative approach to education. Teachers, parents, and young learners from around the world are invited to participate in this interactive online workshop, sponsored by the **United Nations AI for Good** program. Most robotics kits are compatible with Scratch programming, and these MathDance workshops offer a great opportunity to learn more about Scratch as well.

Registration is free. For registration links and more information, visit the UN/ITU website:

**September 18** [MathDance Workshop](#) | **September 25** [MathDance Workshop](#)

For any questions, please contact Dr. CJ Chung: [chung@ltu.edu](mailto:chung@ltu.edu).

### [\(2\) Fall UMC Scholarship Competition and Workshop for High School Students](#)

Robofest is hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Unknown Mission Scholarship Challenge this fall for High School students to compete to win up to 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. Registration links and the 2024 UMC Scholarship Rules are on the UMC page: <https://www.robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/unknown-mission-challenge>

**Competition: Sat, Nov 2, 2024, 1:00 pm ~ 5:00 pm**  
At Lawrence Technological University, Computer Science Robotics 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.

A free workshop has been scheduled for registered students to prepare for the competition using VEX IQ robot kits and VEXcode. Students who attend this optional UMC workshop may borrow a VEX IQ robot kit for the competition on November 2.

**Workshop: Sat, Oct 19, 2024, 1:00 pm ~ 5:00 pm**  
At Lawrence Technological University, Computer Science Robotics Lab, J234

### [\(3\) Fall RoboParade in Clinton Township, Michigan](#)

Robofest is hosting RoboParade at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) 44001 Garfield Rd, Clinton Twp., MI on **Saturday, November 16, 2024 9:00 am ~ 1:00 pm**. Teams of up to 5 students can build, program and decorate a robotic float in any theme related to fall (examples are Football, Back to School, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Pumpkin Spice). Registration is open. Rules and registration link can be found on the RoboParade page: <https://www.robofest.net/index.php/current-competitions/roboparade>

#### **(4) State of Michigan 99h Robotics Competition Grant returns for 2025 Robofest Season**

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 2024-2025 teams (between \$500 and \$1,200) and Coach Stipends (between \$1,000 and \$1,500) will be available for Robofest teams that compete in the 2024-2025 season and are pre-registered in the Robofest Registration system by December 1, 2024 (Pre-registration is open for all categories). More information and detailed instructions will be posted on the Michigan Department of Education website. <https://www.techplan.org/edtech-initiatives/rdi/competitive-99h-robotics-competition-grant/>

#### **(5) 2025 Season Kickoff and World Championship Dates**

The Robofest 2025 Season International Rules will be released on Saturday, **September 28, 2024**. We will host a series of kickoff meetings to review the rules for clarification. The US Rules will be uploaded in November. After all the Kickoff meetings are completed, the rules will be finalized in January 2025.

The kickoff meeting schedule is as follows (Zoom Links are available on the Robofest.net 2025 Main Page):

**Friday, October 4, 2024** 9:00 am ~ 10:30 am (Zoom only)

**Thursday, November 7, 2024** 7:00 pm ~ 8:30 pm (Zoom only)

**Saturday, January 11, 2025** 10:00 am ~ 11:30 am (In person and Zoom)

The 26<sup>th</sup> Robofest World Championship will be hosted on the campus of Lawrence Technological University on **May 15, 16 and 17, 2025**

#### **(6) Annual Report and Wrap Up Video Posted**

We recently hosted an appreciation event for local Coaches, Site Hosts, Volunteers and Sponsors to review the 2023-2024 Robofest Annual Report, Analysis Report and Wrap Up Video. The presentation, reports and a link to the video have been posted to the "What's New" section on the Robofest.net home page. We would like to thank everyone that made the season a success and hope you enjoy reading and watching.

#### **(7) Seeking Technical Committee Members for 2024-2025 Season**

Robofest is seeking volunteers to serve on technical committees for competition categories for the 2024-2025 season. Each committee will continue the work from last season to review and refine competition rules, and members will be involved in judging World Championship events and qualifying competitions. Attendance at a monthly in-person or Zoom meeting is expected throughout the season. A short Bio of each committee member will be posted on the Robofest website. If you are not currently on a committee and would like to be part of the organization to help bring the Robofest opportunity to more students around the world, please send an email to [robofest@ltu.edu](mailto:robofest@ltu.edu).

#### **(8) Seeking Site Hosts for Competitions**

The Robofest Site Host Applications are ready, and we are seeking site hosts for the 2024-2025 Competition Season. In order to get your location on the pre-season promotional materials, US and International hosts must submit the application by November 20, 2024. 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.

#### **(9) Autonomous Robotics Field Trips Available for High School Students**

The Robofest Office would like to invite High School Robotics Clubs or Teams and Computer Science, Math, or Science Classes to participate in a half-day or full day field trip activity that may include mini Robofest competitions. This is a unique opportunity to visit the LTU campus and learn about the exciting Computer Science and Intelligent robotics research currently being conducted in the Computer Science Robotics Labs. Students will also get hands-on experience with coding using Python with Robots.

Coaches, Teachers or Parents interested in coordinating a field trip to campus should contact Prof. Elmer Santos, Director of Robofest at [esantos@LTU.edu](mailto:esantos@LTU.edu).

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Dr. Chris Cartwright, Associate Professor of Math, Executive Council Member

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