

Robofest e-Newsletter 01-09-20

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Note: All times are listed in EST

(1) FINAL KICKOFF MEETING/WEBINAR THIS SATURDAY

The Final Kickoff meeting and webinar is scheduled for this **Saturday, January 11, 2020 10:00 am ~ 11:30 am EST** in the LTU Robofest Computer Science Lab (Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf>. Free parking is available in Lot E). If you cannot attend in person, the link for the Zoom webinar is <https://ltu.zoom.us/j/2482043568>. We will review the final release of General and Category Rules and we encourage all Coaches and Site Hosts to participate. The Robofest 2020 Season Final General Rules will be posted on the *Get Involved/2020 Main* page on the www.robofest.net website shortly after the meeting.

(2) LAST CALL - MCWT Grant for All-Girl Robofest Teams: Deadline is January 13, 2020

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, 16-year sponsor of Robofest, is once again providing \$500 grants for up to six all-girl Robofest teams for the 2020 Robofest Game and Exhibition competition. More information and the application has been posted to their webpage: https://mcwt.smapply.io/prog/robofest_grant/

(3) "Robofest 101" EV3 Workshop

Returning for this season, on **Thursday, January 16, 2020 6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm**, we are hosting a "Robofest 101" a EV3 Workshop for beginners. This is an opportunity for anyone including coaches, mentors, students, and parents to learn the basics of EV3 programming for Lego EV3 Robots. Participants do **not** need to be part of a registered team to attend this workshop. We will meet in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex ~ Building # 8 on the LTU Campus Map: <https://www.ltu.edu/map/ltu-campus-map.pdf>. Free parking is available in Lot E. We will be serving pizza so be sure to RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/36WAjochVTa4cKCw6>

(4) Robofest 2020 Workshop Schedule

All of the 2020 workshops will be held in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex*. Only registered and paid teams are eligible to register for workshops. Note that additional workshops may be added based on the demand. To register your students, select *Available Workshops* on the left men of the registration page on Robofest.net.

- Python - EV3 for Game:
 - Sat, Jan 11, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
- EV3 for Game:
 - Sat, Jan 18, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Sat, Jan 25, 9:00am ~ Noon
 - Sat, Feb 1, 9:00am ~ Noon
- RoboMesh - VEX IQ for Game:
 - Sat, Jan 18, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm
- EV3 for RoboParade:
 - Sat, Feb 22, 9:00am ~ Noon
- Python/Open CV - EduBot for Vcc: (*Location: Buell Building Room M138)
 - Sat, Feb 22, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm
- Online Game curriculum will be available in January 2020. Details will be coming soon.

(5) Robofest 2020 Warmup Competition and Judge Training for Game at LTU

On Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 1:00pm ~ 5:30pm in Room J234 in the Taubman Complex. Teams who would like to participate should send an email to spalonis@ltu.edu. Check-in for registered teams begins at 1:00 pm and Judge training will start at 1:45 pm. We encourage Michigan Site Hosts and Volunteer Game Judges to attend. Please register in the Volunteer Registration System <https://robofest.net/rms/appPages/volunteerPages/index.jsp?siteID=1174>

(6) Free Software for Registered Robofest Teams

A) ROBOTC Software for EV3 and NXT

Once again, Carnegie Mellon, Robotics Academy and Robomatter Inc. partners with Robofest in order to provide Robofest 2020 teams with a FREE annual License of ROBOTC for use in Robofest 2020! ROBOTC is a cross-robotics-platform (LEGO Mindstorms and VexIQ) solution that allows students to learn the type of C-based programming used in advanced education and professional applications. It is the only programming language at this level that offers a comprehensive, real-time debugger.

Download ROBOTC for Mindstorms at <http://robotc.net/> and contact esantos@ltu.edu with your registered team ID to obtain your license key.

B) Robot C Virtual World Available for Robofest Teams

No Robot, No Problem! Robot Virtual Worlds (RVW) is a high-end simulation environment that enables students, without robots, to learn programming. Robofest sponsor RoboMatter Inc. is providing free RVW licenses for Robofest teams using VEX robots. If you are interested in using it, please email at robofest@LTU.edu

(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 an application, along with a 400-word essay regarding your Robofest experience, your career goals, and a letter of recommendation from one of your Robofest adult coaches or mentors to apply. Robofest can assist with the recommendation letter if desired. The deadline to apply is April 1. To find more information and download the application, visit

<https://www.ltu.edu/futurestudents/scholarshipopportunities.asp#tab3>

(8) Registration Open for RoboMed

Introducing RoboMed – a new Open Category that will be held at the 2020 Robofest World Championship in May. Teams of High School or College students will create and program (bio) medical robotics/device projects using intelligent & interactive robotics. This competition also promotes an entrepreneurial mindset. Robots must have computational components programmed by participants and must employ sensors and/or actuators. More information can be found on the *Get Involved/RoboMed* page on the www.robofest.net website.

(9) Robofest 2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan ~ Feb 2020: Technical workshops and webinars for teams
- Feb ~ April 2020: Qualifying competitions for Games and Exhibition in USA
- To be Announced: Michigan Invitational Qualifiers at LTU
- May 14-16, 2020: World Championship at LTU in Michigan

(10) Robofest 2020 World Championship Schedule

The 21st World Championship Event will be held at LTU in Southfield, MI. Team events on May 14~16 2020 will include the Game and Exhibition Championships as well as the open category events of BottleSumo, RoboParade, RoboArts BottleSumo, Unknown Mission Challenge, and Vision Centric Challenge. The schedule can be found on the robofest.net website: <https://robofest.net/2020/WC20schedule.pdf>

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