

Robofest eNewsletter 01-12-22

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Note: All times are listed in EST unless noted

(1) Robofest World Championship Format Update

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic variants, Lawrence Technological University has restricted all large gatherings of non-LTU student groups on campus.

The In-Person, May 12-14 2022 Robofest World Championship events will be moved to an online format. We are still committed to hosting Robofest Online World Championship events and are planning to have the 2022 season completed by mid-May.

We will be releasing the updated ROWC schedule during the "Kickoff II" meeting (See Item 2) and in a subsequent general rules update.

(2) Kickoff II Meeting Saturday, January 15 at 10:00 am on Zoom

Site Hosts, coaches, volunteers and corporate partners ~ please join us via Zoom on January 15 at 10:00 am for the kickoff meeting to introduce the rules and FINAL PLANS for the upcoming 23rd Robofest season. The meeting slides and link to the recorded meeting will be posted on the **Get Involved/2022 Main Page**.

To Join the Zoom Meeting, click:

<https://ltu.zoom.us/j/95877755557?pwd=cWd2NnFEUThMWGZqcExocTJOUiBadz09>

Or login directly with meeting ID: 958 7775 5557 and Passcode: 649126

(3) Robofest Beginner Workshop Dates Scheduled

The 2022 workshops will be held in-person in the Computer Science Robotics Lab - J234. Registration is free, but teams must be registered and paid for a qualifier. (Qualifier pre-registration is available)

Sat, Jan 22, 9:00am ~ Noon: **VEX IQ with Robot Mesh**

Sat, Jan 22, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm: **LEGO EV3 with Scratch for Game**

Sat, Mar 12, 9:00am ~ Noon: **LEGO Spike Prime / Robot Inventor with Scratch**

Sat, Mar 12, 1:00pm ~ 4:00pm: **VEX IQ with VEXcode**

Sat, Mar 19, 9:00am ~ Noon: **LEGO Spike Prime / Robot Inventor with Python**

Registration is open. To register your students, select *Available Workshops* on the left menu of the registration page on Robofest.net.

(4) Mentors looking for Teams in Plymouth-Canton, MI

Do you have a Robofest team in need of mentorship? A group of Middle School and High School robotics students/competitors in the Plymouth Canton Community School district would like to offer their time and expertise to local Robofest teams. The students are district, state, and world champions in the FIRST Robotics Competition students are proficient in several different programming languages and algorithmic thinking, perfect for the style of LEGO Mindstorms coding that is present in Robofest. If you are interested in connecting

with a student mentor for your Robofest team, please send an email to Shannan Palonis (spalonis@ltu.edu) with the subject line "Mentor Wanted" along with your contact information and we will forward it to the group.

(5) 2022 Robofest Game *OceanBots* Rules to be Finalized Jan 18

The 2022 Game rules have been modified slightly to add clarifications and FAQs. The updated version has been posted to the Robofest.net website. Click on the **Get Involved/Game** page.

The US Final rules will be finalized on January 18. If you have any questions about the rules that you would like to have clarified, please send an email to Shannan Palonis (spalonis@ltu.edu) and we will answer them in the FAQ and/or update the rules to add clarity.

(6) Annual Report and Assessment Reports Posted

The 2020-2021 Robofest Annual Report and Assessment Report have been posted to the "What's New" section on the Robofest.net home page or directly at: <https://robofest.net/images/2021/robofest21report.pdf> and <https://robofest.net/images/2021/robofest21assessment.pdf>. The Annual Report includes site and team statistics and the Assessment Report includes links to the anonymous survey results.

(7) MCWT Grants for All-Girl Robofest Teams

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, 18-year sponsor of Robofest, is once again providing \$500 grants for up to ten Michigan all-girl Robofest teams for the 2022 Robofest Game and Exhibition competitions. More information, the application and deadline will be posted to their webpage: <https://mcwt.org/programs/list/K-12-Initiatives/ROBOTICS-GRANTS>

(8) Site Host Opportunity Returns for 2022

Robofest is seeking site hosts for the following categories: Game Qualifiers, Exhibition Qualifiers, BottleSumo, RoboParade and other Open Category events during the Spring of 2022. Returning Site Hosts may contact the Robofest Office at spalonis@ltu.edu to start the registration process. The online application is available on the **Registration** page. Downloadable forms and 'New Site Host Information and FAQ' documents are now available on the [For Site Hosts](#) page on the Robofest.net website.

(9) Warmup Competition/Judge Training February 12 at 1:00 pm at LTU

This event is still scheduled to be hosted in-person on Saturday, Feb 12, 2022 from 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 invite and encourage Michigan Site Hosts and Volunteer Game Judges to attend. Registration for judges will open on January 20.

(10) 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 a 400-word essay describing your Robofest experience and your career goals, a letter of recommendation from one of your Robofest adult coaches or mentors, and the Scholarship Application by **April 1, 2022**. To find more information visit: https://www.ltu.edu/financial_aid/scholarships-freshmen.asp

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