

Texas BEST Regional and UIL Robotics State Championship

Encouraging Volunteering in Robotics, Engineering, and Technology



The University of Texas at Dallas requests your consideration in volunteering for this year's Texas BEST Regional and UIL Robotics State Championship. This program introduces and encourages middle school and high school age students from across the Southwest region to explore career paths focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, while teaching them entrepreneurial and communication skills.

While The University of Texas at Dallas has had a long-standing relationship with Texas BEST Robotics and hosted the event for the past eight years, this annual competition has over 25 years of successful execution. This competition is one of three regional-level BEST championships held nationally. Teams from Texas and adjacent states will compete in the fall at the Comerica Center in Frisco, with more than 1,500 participants and up to 5,000 attendees expected at the event.

The University of Texas at Dallas will also host a one-day BRIGHT Idea Spotlight next door at the Frisco Convention Center. This event will include interactive booths to engage students, TED-style workshops showcasing innovative research, and a lunch and learn for students, educators, and chaperones.

More About Texas BEST

Texas BEST participants will develop math, science, and engineering skills firsthand by designing and engineering radio-controlled robots. Winners then advance to regional championships where their robots must compete in challenging tasks in a game-like format. BEST also educates participants about STEAM-related

college majors, scholarship opportunities, and careers in technical fields.

Volunteering at a BEST event will further inspire these students to build successful careers in STEM fields who otherwise will not have the opportunity to participate in the BEST Robotics program.

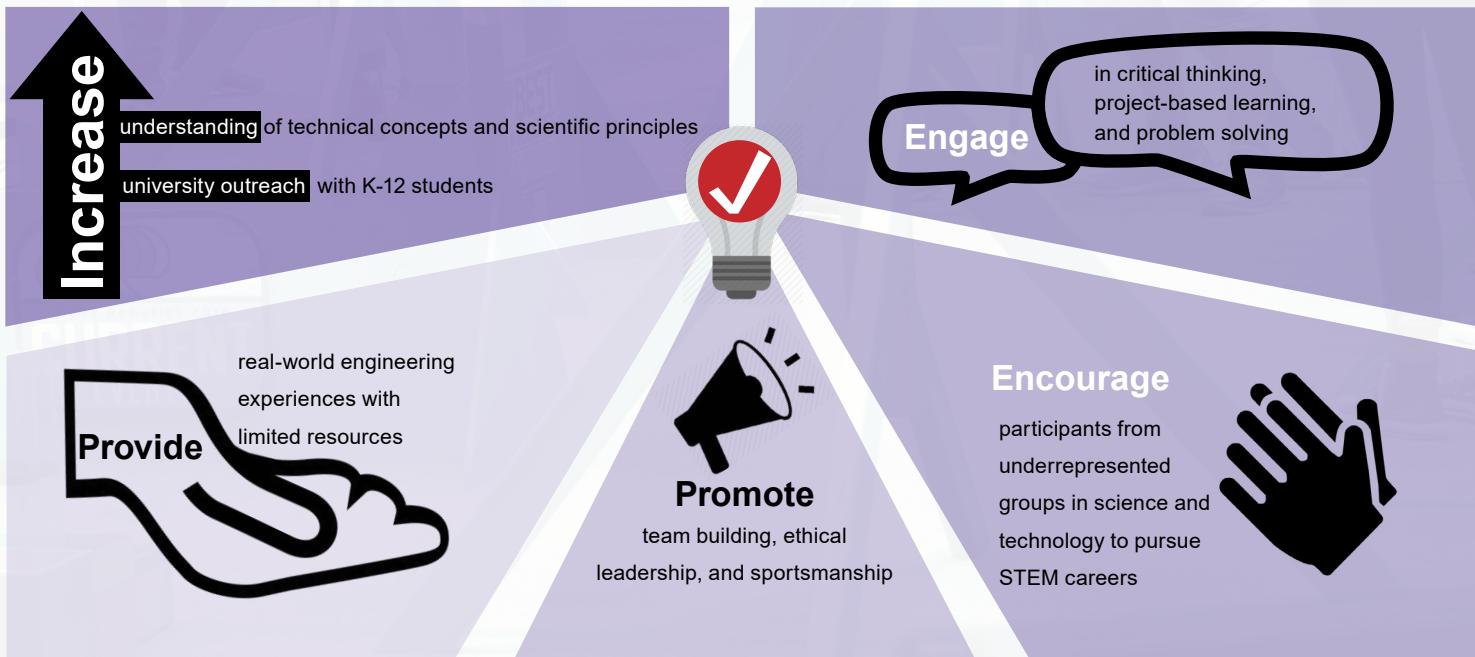


Former BEST competitor and UTD student, Emily Esch, says:

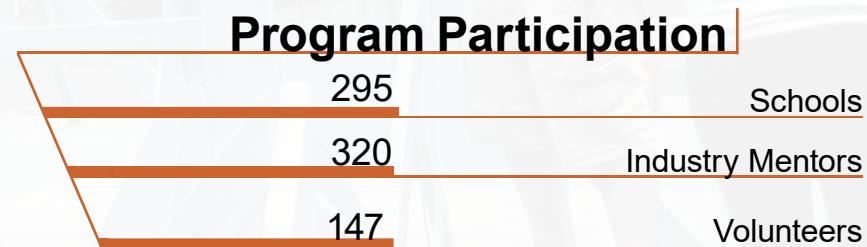
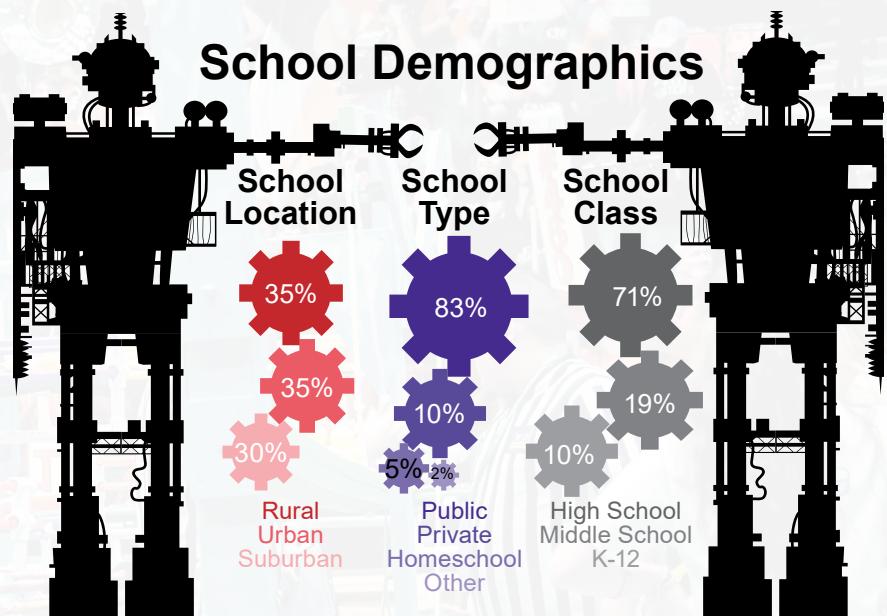
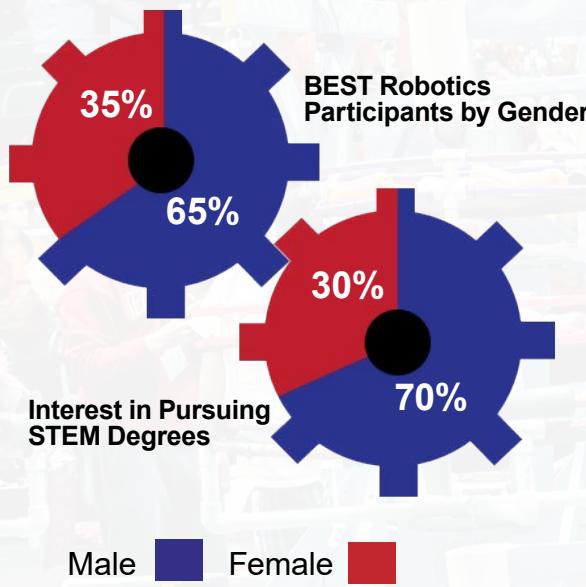
“Growing up in a small, low-income district, BEST was the first exposure I had to anything technological. What started as an interest in helping my friend with the engineering notebook grew into learning the ins and out of design and programming. BEST has forever shaped me by giving me the direction, passion, and confidence to succeed not only in the STEM world but in everyday life as well.”

Program goals

By tasking students with a real-world, project-based problem in a competitive environment, this program will:



2018 Texas BEST Robotics Demographics



Demographics

3,961 Total Students

- [5%] African American
- [11%] Asian American
- [47%] Hispanic
- [4%] Native American
- [3%] Other
- [30%] White



MathWorks
Texas Instruments
Lockheed Martin
State Farm
Texas Workforce Commission
Collins Aerospace
Baker Botts LLP
Dr Pepper Snapple

Volunteer Needs

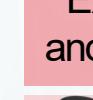
Texas BEST competitions are possible only with the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who donate their time and talent. During an event, volunteers interact with students, teachers, and parents. Our volunteers serve as role models and make the experience great for teams, and volunteers are inspired by the creativity and energy of the interactions. No prior experience with robotics, science, engineering, or competitions is needed -- we have roles for professionals and enthusiasts with all backgrounds!

For more information and/or how to sign up to volunteer, please go to:

<https://utdallas.edu/best/volunteers/>

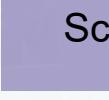
Judges

Business Professional? You are qualified.

	Notebook	review teams' online notebooks
	Presentation	judge team marketing presentations
	Display/ Interview	talk with students in display booths
	Spirit/ Sportsmanship	visit teams in pits and observe team members
	Robot	groups of judges visit pits, ask questions, and observe teams
	Exhibit Design and Construction	review team displays for creativity and construction quality
	Team Shirt	review team shirts for creativity
	Web Design	review team web pages

Game Field

College students and above are qualified.

	Referees	referee games (knowledge of game and scoring principles needed)
	Scorekeepers	assist head scorekeeper during competition
	Pit Crew	supervise activities in the pit area
	Machine / Compliance Check-In Crew	inspect each machine for rule compliance (knowledge of kits needed)
	Set Up / Tear Down	assist set-up and break down of game area, game fields, etc.
	General Assistance	distribute team bags and badges, answer questions, etc.

Why Volunteering at BEST is best



Wiede Cutshall is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Texas. She has been involved in BEST since 1994, participating as a mentor, referee, machine compliance judge, kit refurb tech, and general troubleshooter.

For new volunteers, I would say try out a lot of the different roles to get involved. Some people like mentoring teams or judging.

It's so much fun! Once you start doing it, you'll keep doing it! You can spend as much or as little time as you want.

My favorite part of this organization is just the opportunities that the students get to learn. The power of this program is its volunteers. So many people want to be part of this and want the students to be the best and learn all they can..."



As an employer at Texas Instruments, **Otis Gorley** has been involved with BEST since 2005 - in a variety of roles including Co-Hub director for CoCoBest and as a referee.

Try different things to find what you like to do. There are so many areas that can use help. Come to one of the Game days, see how this inspires the students and then talk to volunteers to see areas that you might be able to volunteer.

BEST does an excellent job of taking a real world situation and having students work on a solution to the situation in all phases (business, marketing, functional robot, software, web page)

This lets students take what they are learning in school and apply it to something other than a text book, test, or essay - something more real world."





Jon Spangler has been involved in BEST Robotics for 19 years as a mentor, volunteer coordinator and notebook judge. He is a UTD alum and currently works at Raytheon Company. He says this about BEST:

“ I believe the power of BEST to be mostly 110 VAC 20 Amp @ 60 Hz with some battery power - all jokes aside - my favorite part about BEST is the look on a student's face when they figure something out for themselves.”



David Kwast has been involved in BEST Robotics for 17 years and counting, five of them spent as a coach / team mentor. He works at Lockheed Martin. This is what he has to say about BEST:

“ My favorite part is simply seeing the kids get excited about the robots and the program. I believe the power of the BEST program is exposing students to the workplace - in particular the technical workplace.”

