Middle and High School Robotics Competition

Take plywood, PVC pipe of various sizes, threaded rod, a box filled with screws and other hardware, an irrigation valve cover, piano wire, aluminum paint grid, a bicycle inner tube, something called a “micro-energy chain system,” an assortment of other odds-and-ends, and give it all to a team of students with the challenge to design and build a functioning, competitive robot in six short weeks.

What do you get?

BEST
Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology

- the excitement of a basketball game
- the strategy of a chess match
- the intellectual challenge of a science fair
- the pressure of a competitive sporting event

...plus hundreds of screaming fans, pep bands, cheerleaders, music, dancing, and mascots

“The BEST experience is like an education greenhouse; what happens during six weeks of competition would take an entire year in the classroom.”

~ Science Teacher, Hoover (AL)
Our mission – **to engage, excite, and inspire students** to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in a sports-like science- and engineering-based robotics competition.

**Our Core Objectives**

- **Provide students** with a real-world engineering experience that incorporates the practical application of math and science
- **Prepare students** to be technologically literate and thus better prepared to enter the workforce
- **Help students** develop leadership, project management, teamwork, and organizational skills
- **Develop students’** confidence and competence through self-directed learning, decision-making, abstract thinking, and problem-solving

**Our Core Values**

- Students are the sole participants and primary decision-makers, designers, and builders
- Any student may participate
- The program is free to schools—no fee
- Equipment and materials are provided at no cost to participating schools
- Any school may participate regardless of type, size, location, location, or socioeconomic status
BEST Facts

- **1993** began as a single event for high schools in Grayson County, Texas
- **1998** non-profit established
- **2012** 46 community-based sites in 19 states
- **2012** Over 4000 volunteers, 850-plus schools, and 12,500-plus students

“The students, parents, mentors, community, and I have become not only a team during the 42 days of BEST, but remain a team throughout the year.”

~ Science Teacher, Mobile, AL

Teams also compete in
- oral presentations
- technical writing
- educational exhibit design
- CAD design
- website design
- video production
- spirit and sportsmanship
... and more
The Engineering Design Process

The fundamental problem-solving tool BEST teachers and mentors use to help guide the students through the design-and-construction phase of the competition.

Engineers and other technical professionals serve a vital role as team mentors, shepherding the team through the design and construction phase. By working side-by-side with an engineer from a local industry, students learn what engineers do—engineering is “demystified.”

BEST is less about building robots and more about teaching students how to analyze and solve problems. What BEST students learn is what industry needs in its future workforce and what communities need in their future leaders.
See BEST in Action!

www.bestinc.org/b_best_reason.php
“The BEST Reason” video

For more information about BEST, contact:

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