



Rocky Mountain BEST

(Boosting Engineering Science and Technology)

2012 Game Newsletter No 1

13 May 2012

Student teams and teachers, welcome to the 2012 RM BEST robotics competition! This is our 3rd year in Colorado and the 20th year for the national organization, BEST Robotics Inc (BRI). In October 2012 teams in 17 states and 54 local hubs (http://best.eng.auburn.edu/b_best_hubs.php) will be playing the same game with the hope of reaching the regional competitions.

On September 15th we will be unveiling and revealing “the game” for which you will have six weeks to build a robot based on your winning strategy. On that day, Kick-Off, you will be issued a box with consumables materials that you can keep and a box with electronics that you will be required to return to BEST. You will build your robot using only those materials. If you are curious about the game, there is a teaser at the National BEST web site at <http://best.eng.auburn.edu/>. Get ready to bring your cheerleaders and supporters to the game. The BEST games are no different than a sports game with all the noise and excitement expected of that type of event!

In terms of activities between now and Kick Off in September 15th, we will host a Teachers and Mentor’s Institute August 6th and 7th at the Lowry Conference Center. At this activity you will be exposed to the VEX electronics used in our robots and to the overall rules for the BEST competition. Even if your team is on stand-by, you can still attend. The next newsletter will have more information.

The volunteers at RM BEST are busily preparing for the 2012 season. We are recruiting additional volunteers for the many required tasks, from judging to building the game floor to arranging for food during the game. We are also planning for future years, contacting sponsors, writing grants and preparing for what we call Practice Day.

On Practice Day, October 20th, one week PRIOR to Game Day,

students are required to bring their robots and try them out on the game floor. This is an excellent way to check out if the robots can perform as the students designed them. The judges will be inspecting the robots to make sure they follow the rules. We make sure that the students, not the mentors or teachers, are building the machines. If you are curious about last year's season, check out our 2011 game video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScFisa5inQU&feature=email>.

This year's game, to be held October 27th, will have 24 Colorado teams from as far as Otis and Colorado Springs. In the next newsletter I will be announcing the schools so that you know your competition. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or any of the members listed at our web site (<http://www.rockymountainbest.org/>).

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