

Practice Day will be **Saturday, October 11** at Thomas Jefferson High School, 3950 South Holly St, Denver. The robot that you worked so hard to create to play in **Blade Runner**, can be tested on the game floor. Game Referees will be available to help you improve your strategy and to make sure your team understands the rules. Attendance is optional, but strongly encouraged regardless of your robot status.

Game Day competition will be **Saturday, October 18** at the Auraria Campus Events Center (aka the Gym) courtesy of Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). The gym is next to the campus Tivoli Center at the south end of Larimer St. This is a free event and we encourage you to invite family and friends. If your school decides not to participate this year, we encourage you to attend and experience the game!

On other news, the **Teacher and Mentor Institute** (TMI) will be **July 21st and 22nd** at MSU Denver, at the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science, 1250 7th Street, Denver. This free workshop will include helpful sessions to prepare you for this year's season, and hands-on sessions focusing on fabricating and programming a BEST robot. Also, you will receive information on the free, available software. MSU Denver will also provide tours of the flight simulators and aerospace modeling laboratory. There is no cost for attending the Institute, and lunch is included! We are allowing 3 participants per school team. We do require that at least one team participant be a teacher; the other two participants may be teachers and/or mentors. Students are NOT ALLOWED to attend the institute. A parent can be a mentor! We **strongly encourage** each school to send a representative to the TMI. Please extend an invitation to your mentors!

Please sign on for the TMI at

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e95j7tdn00103644&llr=upculvlab&showPage=true> **before July 11**. It is very important that we can get a head count as soon as possible.

The friends of BEST in Alabama have created a web site to help BEST teams. The link is <http://www.friendsofbest.org/category/bestology> . Posted on the web site, "*Each week, a new post is published on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. CT. Each post contains HINTS for the upcoming BEST Robotics Game – Bladerunner. Teachers, please incorporate bESTology activities into your classroom. Students, challenge your teammates to participate in bESTology. Remember, each post contains HINTS for Bladerunner 2014!*"

As additional information, I am attaching 2013 Generic Game Rules and Generic Kit Usage Guide documents that will give you a head start on this BEST season. A formal Official Q&A page for the 2014 game will be set up at the Auburn BEST web site. I will let you know when that is in place.

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