## BEST™ DIVISIONS

**Robotics**
**Each participating school fields a robotics team. Teams must also submit a Project Engineering Notebook that describes how the Engineering Design Process was utilized in the design of their robot.**

**BEST Award**
**The highest achievement in BEST, this optional competition includes an oral presentation, educational exhibit, spirit and sportsmanship, and robot performance.**

## Competition Events

- **Kick-off Day (September) — Game challenge and playing field unveiled and the six-week long "design-and-build" phase begins.**
- **Mall Day (Early October) — Typically during the fourth week, teams practice-drive their robots on the playing field set up at a local mall.**
- **Game Day (Late October) — The actual competition takes place and winners of both the robotics and BEST Award divisions advance to a Regional Championship.**
- **Regional Championship (December) — Winning teams from all hubs within a BEST geographical region compete for the regional title.**
- **National Championship (Following April) — Winners of the Regional Championships compete for the national title.**

For more information about ...

**BEST**
**Boosting Engineering, Science & Technology ™**


Contact:
**Dr. George Blanks**
Executive Director, BEST Robotics

Samuel Ginn College of Engineering
217 Ramsay Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849

**blankgw@eng.auburn.edu**
**334.703.0077**


# BEST™

## Middle and High School Robotics Competition

Engaging, exciting and inspiring students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology through participation in a sports-like, science and engineering-based robotics competition.

**BEST**
**BOOSTING ENGINEERING, SCIENCE,** and **TECHNOLOGY**

Take plywood, PVC pipe of various sizes, threaded rods, a box filled with screws and other hardware, an irrigation valve cover, piano wire, an 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!

**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!**


## BEST Core Objectives

**PROVIDE STUDENTS** with a **real-world engineering** experience that incorporates the practical application of math & 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

## BEST Core Values

**STUDENTS** are the sole participants and primary decision-makers, designers and builders

Any **STUDENT** may participate

**THE PROGRAM IS FREE TO SCHOOLS** — There are no registration or participation fees

**EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST** to participating schools

**ANY SCHOOL MAY PARTICIPATE** regardless of type, size location or socioeconomic status

## The Engineering Design Process

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

**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.