



“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)

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

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

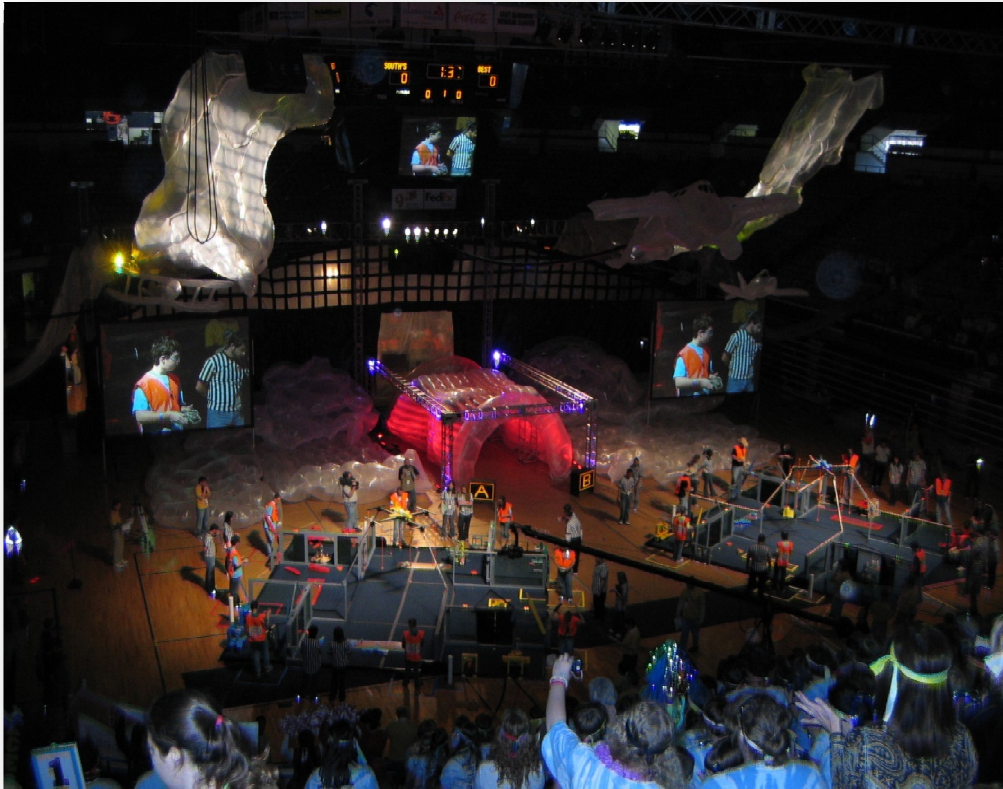
The fundamental problem-solving tool BEST teachers and mentors use to help guide the students through the design-and-construction phase of the competition.



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:

**Ms. Janne Ackerman
Executive Director (interim)
BEST Robotics, Inc.
janne.ackerman@bestinc.org
(469.416.8061)**