2025 IMPACT REPORT

BEST ROBOTICS

BOOSTING ENGINEERING SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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About BEST Robotics

The Challenge That Transforms Students Into Innovators

Imagine being handed a sheet of plywood and a mystery box filled with materials like PVC pipe, screws, piano wire, a bicycle inner tube, an irrigation valve cover, an aluminum paint grid, a BRAIN (BEST Robotics Advanced Instruction Node programmable platform), and a micro-energy chain system. Now imagine having just eight weeks to engineer a fully functioning robot capable of performing a series of precise tasks... all within a three-minute window.

This is the challenge (and the excitement) of BEST Robotics, a national competition designed for middle and high school students. Our mission is to ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and to inspire the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and technology leaders.

Through this hands-on, project-based experience, students engage in the Engineering Design Process, learning to think critically, collaborate effectively, and build creatively. They develop real-world skills in engineering, coding, fabrication, and presentation... skills that are highly sought after in today's workforce.

In 2025, more than 300 teams and over 5,700 students nationwide participated in BEST Robotics, and those numbers continue to grow every year. The result? Not just robots, but empowered students ready to take on the future of STEM.

Meet Our Team

Staff

JOHANNES STARKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LIZ JUMPER
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CHARLES LOGSTON
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

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Hubie Payne
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Denver BEST Region

Jais Starks
BEST of Texas Region

Charley Spencer
Audit Committee

Mary Helmick
Program Committee

Michael Drewel
IT/ Software

Peter Labaziewicz
Resource Development

Terrence Southern
Game Commitee

Harshal Chhaya
Member at Large

Dr. Sirisha Kuchimanchi
Member at Large

Gerald Harris
Member at Large





Mission

Inspiring students to pursue careers in engineering, science, technology, and math through participation in a sports-like, science and engineering-based robotics design competition.

Vision

BEST gives students what they need in the context of what they want.

Principles

Students are the primary participants and benefactors
Students perform all the work
Schools participate at no cost
BEST is an equal-opportunity program

Empowering the next generation of STEM leaders.

2025 IMPACT SUMMARY

5,742

K-12 students received hands-on, zero fee STEM programming

325

teams participated in the 2025 FACTOIDS Robotics Competition

31

Robotics Competitions hosted across the nation.

170

STEM Industry Mentors with over 1700 mentoship hours

Program Outcomes Student Survey Results

99.4%

of students report BEST has positively influenced their education and career decisions

86%

of students reported that participation in BEST has improved their technical and communication skills

79%

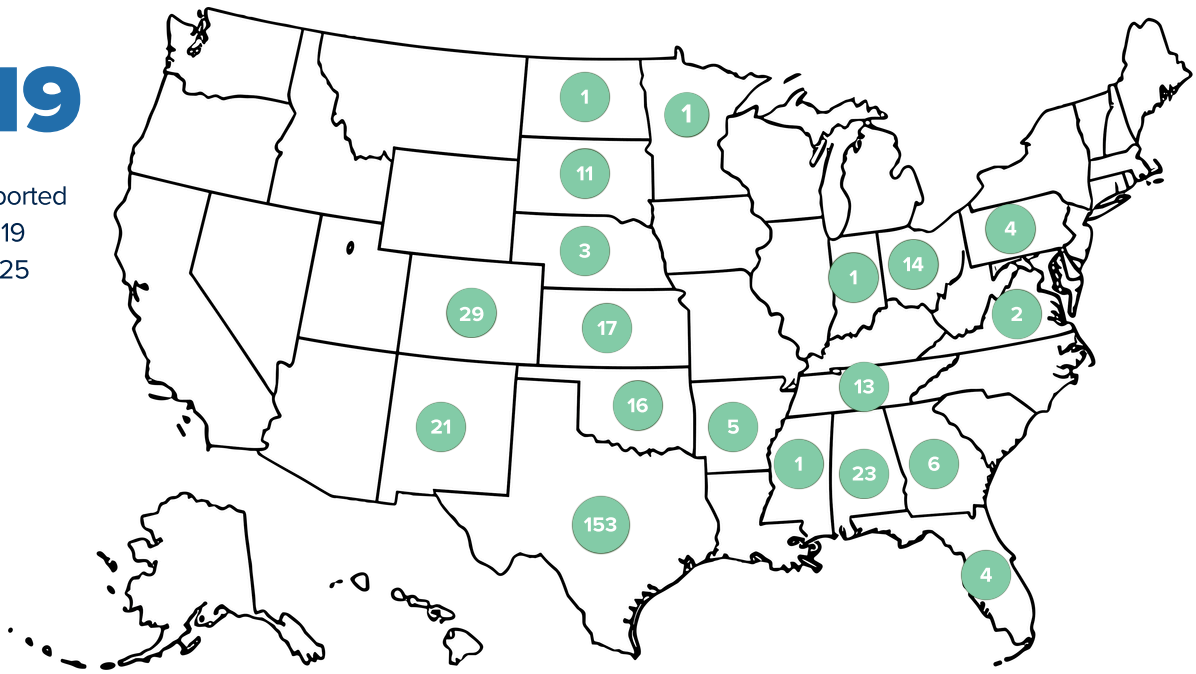
of students reported that participation in BEST has increased their interest in pursuing a STEM career

New Skills Acquired

- 75% Teamwork
- 63% Creativity
- 62% Problem-Solving
- 48% Invention
- 45% Leadership
- 36% Public Speaking
- 24% Programming

19

BEST suppported teams from 19 states in 2025



Student Demographics

Grade Level

K-5th	1%	9th & 10th	32%
6th-8th	25%	11th & 12th	42%

Underserved Populations

Reported Disability	3.1%
Free Lunch Program	24.5%

Gender Distribution:

66%

33%

New vs Returning Students

Returning Participants	37.8%
New Participants	62.2%

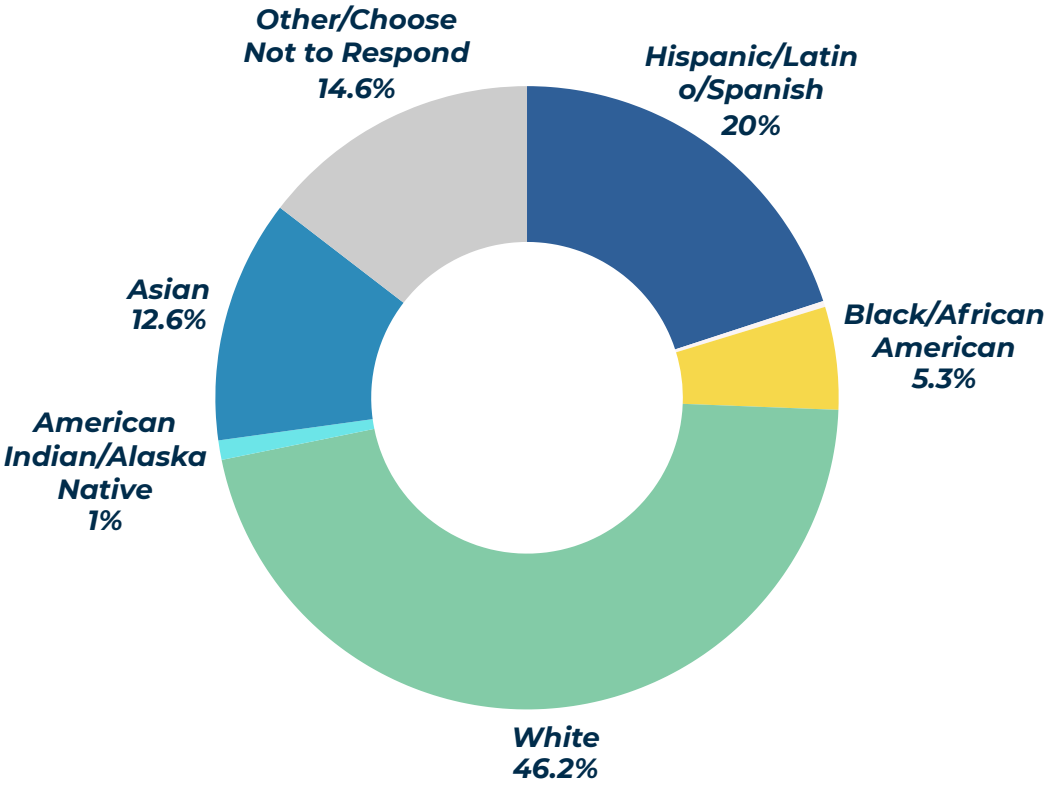
School Type

Public	74.8%	Homeschool	5%
Private	12.3%	Other:	1.4%
Charter	6.5%		

Location of School:

Urban	20%
Suburban	47.3%
Rural	32.7%

Race/Ethnicity



Regional Summary

South's BEST

950 Students
51 Teams
7 Hubs

6

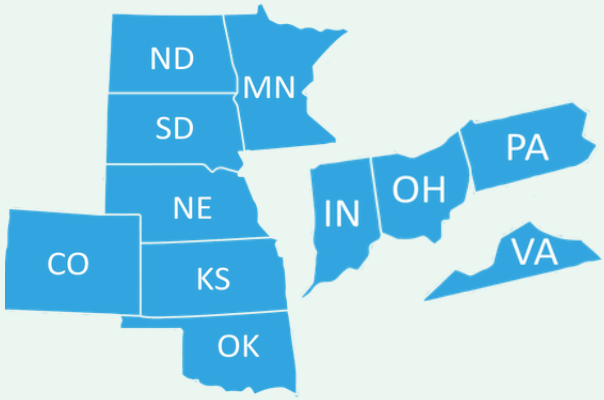
Serving Teams
from 6 States

Denver BEST

1387 Students
100 Teams
8 Hubs

11

Serving Teams
from 11 States

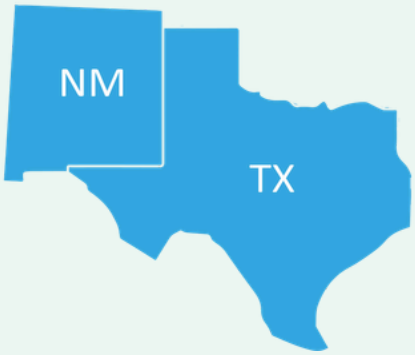


BEST of Texas

3,405 Students
174 Teams
12 Hubs

2

Serving Teams
from 2 States



BEST of Texas Region

Grade Level

K-5th	1%	9th & 10th	33%
6th-8th	19%	11th & 12th	47%

Underserved Populations

Reported Disability	3.5%
Free Lunch Program	28.3%

Gender Distribution:

66%

34%

New vs Returning Students

Returning Participants	35%
New Participants	65%

School Type

Public	84.6%	Homeschool	3.7%
Private	4.9%	Other:	.4%
Charter	6.5%		

Location of School:

Urban	17.9%
Suburban	49.4%
Rural	32.6%

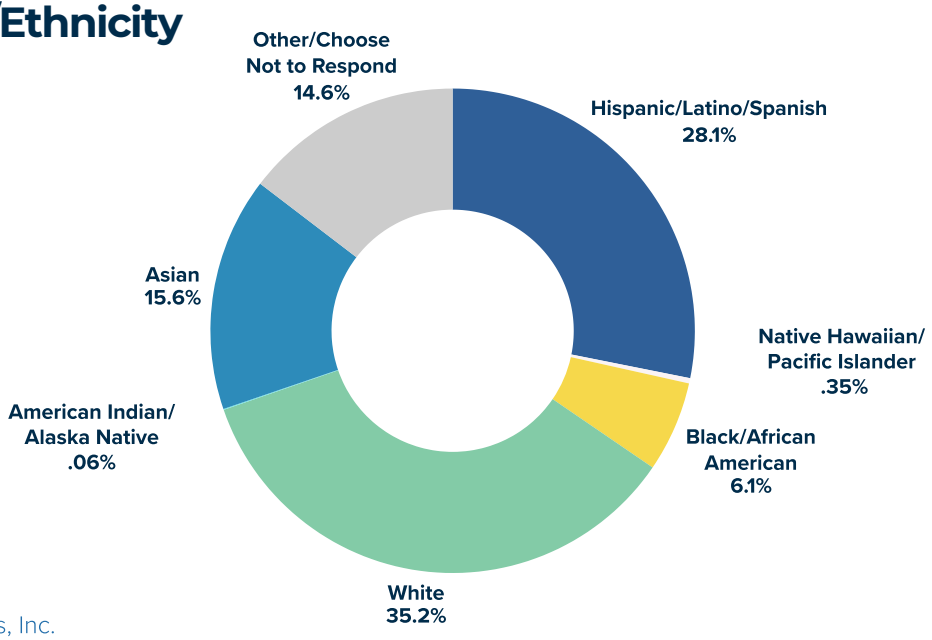
Camp Code Summer Camp STEM Outreach Program

160 STEM-learning instructional hours

377 K-6 students received free camp tuition

12 Coding Camps Held for K-6 students in TX

Race/Ethnicity



South's BEST Region

Grade Level

K-5th	3%	9th & 10th	28%
6th-8th	38%	11th & 12th	31%

Underserved Populations

Reported Disability	2.9%
Free Lunch Program	26.8%

Gender Distribution:

66%

34%

New vs Returning Students

Returning Participants	37.8%
New Participants	62.2%

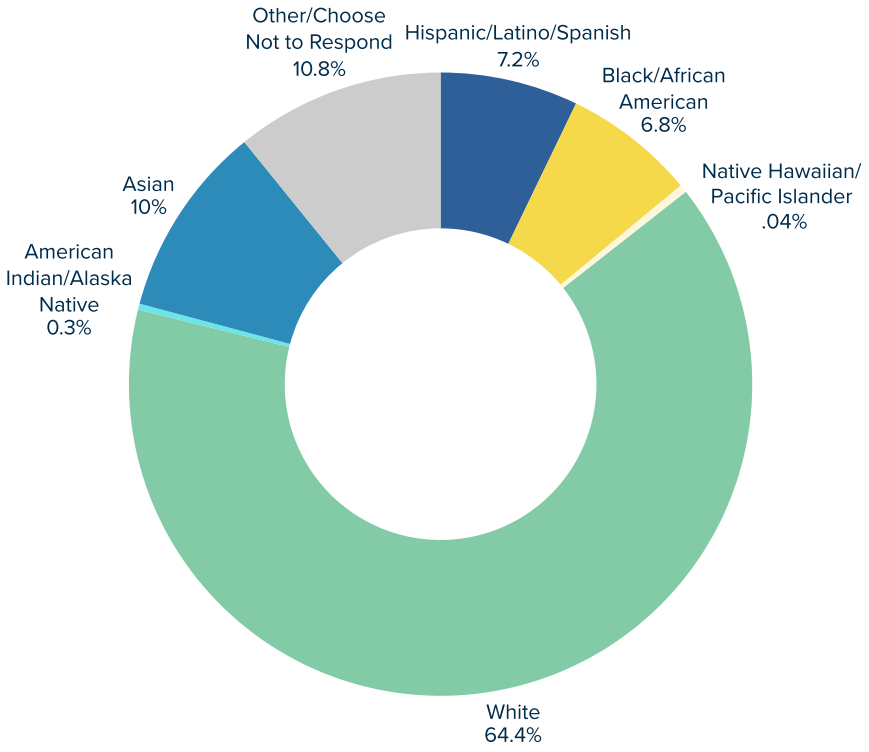
School Type

Public	68.2%	Homeschool	11%
Private	14.3%	Other:	3.1%
Charter	3.5%		

Location of School:

Urban	17%
Suburban	65%
Rural	18%

Race/Ethnicity



Denver BEST Region

Grade Level

K-5th	2.8%	9th & 10th	31.7%
6th-8th	30.2%	11th & 12th	35.3%

Underserved Populations

Reported Disability	4.1%
Free Lunch Program	24.5%

Gender Distribution:

69%

31%

New vs Returning Students

Returning Participants	42.2%
New Participants	57.8%

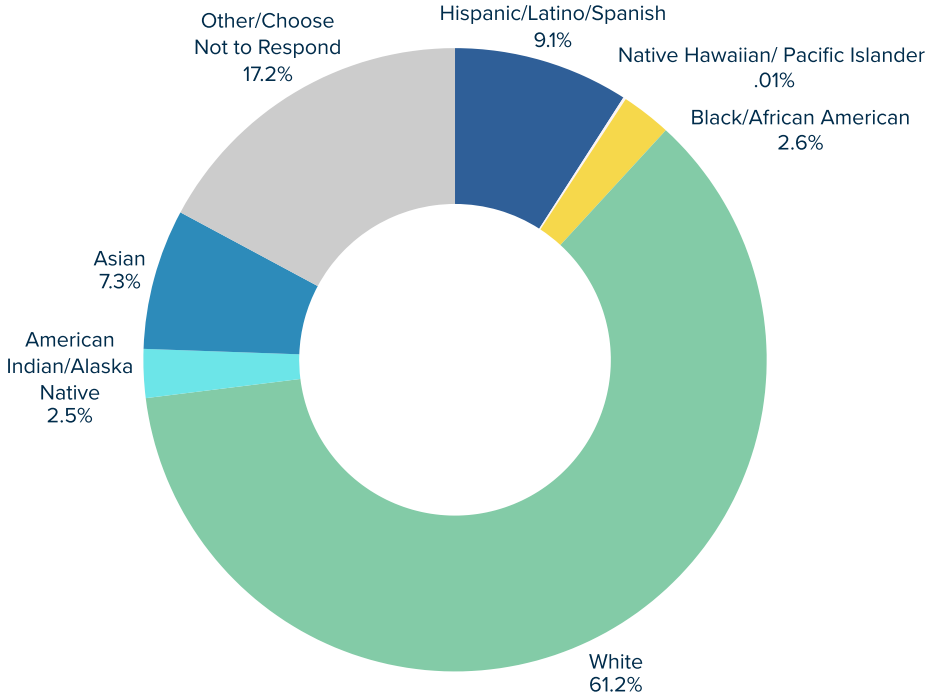
School Type

Public	55.2%	Homeschool	4%
Private	29.3%	Other:	3%
Charter	8.5%		

Location of School:

Urban	23%
Suburban	29.6%
Rural	43.4%

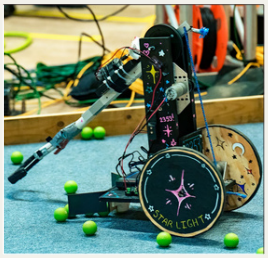
Race/Ethnicity



2025 In Review

The 2025 Competition Season theme was FACTOIDS, and students were challenged to explore artificial intelligence. Through the rigorous 8-week Robotics Competition, students learned about the benefits and pitfalls of AI, and how data quality affects AI model training. BEST Teams were challenged to answer the question: How do we responsibly interface with this new technology as it enters our everyday lives?

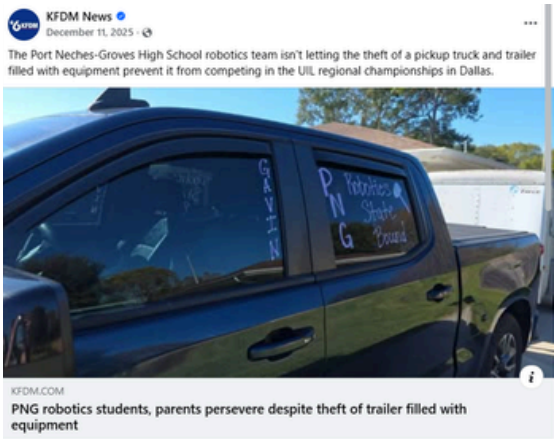
2025 FACTOIDS Game Reveal Video



2025 Competition Overview

What BEST is All About

When the unthinkable happened on the morning of the BEST of Texas Robotics State Championship, the BEST community showed the world what makes the program so special by showing up for one another in a big way.



The Port Neches Groves High School Robotics Team awoke the morning after driving to Dallas to discover that the 2020 Chevy Silverado pickup with the team's cargo trailer was missing from their hotel parking lot. Security cameras confirmed their worst fear: someone had stolen the vehicle and the 10-foot trailer carrying their robot, their marketing booth, and their hopes and dreams for the 2025 State Championship.

Believing their BEST Robotics journey had come to a tragic end, they informed the National Director, Johannes Starks, of the theft and their inability to move forward in the competition. That's when the BEST community did what they do BEST, lift one another up. When Martin's Hill High School heard their story, they immediately took action. They retrieved a second robot from their workshop for the Port Neches team, and BEST of Texas Robotics secured a spare Vex V5 for the team. While Port Neches spent that night completing their adopted robot, the Martin's Mill team returned to their workshop and built them a marketing booth to ensure the students received a complete Championship experience. Through it all, the Port Neches team displayed a profoundly inspiring level of perseverance. Even with the odds already stacked against them, the students returned robot design components to Martin's Mill simply because they had not considered those design elements. The students felt they should not be able to benefit from the innovation of their generous benefactors. In the end, the Port Neches team was awarded the Quorvo Judge's Choice Award for exemplifying the BEST Robotics Competitive Spirit. Martin's Mill High School was awarded the "Above and Beyond" Award for generously supporting a competitor because, "it was the right thing to do".

BEST Robotics, Inc.

We're so proud of the students, parents, and educators that make up these exceptional teams. Thank you for demonstrating the very best of BEST Robotics. You are shining examples of the sportsmanship, integrity, and overall spirit of BEST that make this program so special.

PS- We're happy to report that the truck and trailer were recovered after the competition, but sadly, the contents of the trailer were never recovered.

What's Next?

Virtual STEM Industry Speaker Series

The BEST Robotics Inc. Speaker Series is a new, and completely free, virtual, 10-session career exploration initiative running from January to May of 2026. The series will connect students directly with industry professionals in engineering, programming, marketing, sales, and entrepreneurship careers. Designed to strengthen workforce readiness, each interactive 45-minute session will pair real-world career stories with practical insight into education pathways, in-demand skills, and authentic project examples, followed by live student Q and A. Built-in pre- and post-reflection activities will assist students in building career confidence, clarifying interests, and identifying next steps toward STEM and adjacent professional pathways. By delivering 7.5 hours of career-connected learning and deepening relationships with industry leaders, the Speaker Series advances BEST Robotics' long-term vision of equipping students not only to compete, but to confidently navigate and succeed in the future STEM workforce.
More information can be found at: www.stacergroup.com/speakerseries

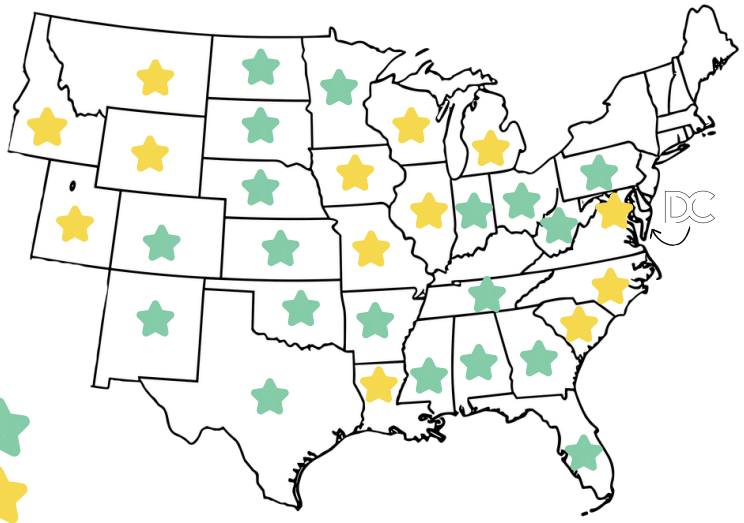
2026 BEST Spring Challenge

The BEST Robotics Spring Challenge is a NASA-inspired initiative that will expand the BEST experience beyond traditional robotics by immersing students in authentic engineering challenges connected to real-world space exploration. In partnership with NASA HUNCH, this Spring Challenge will place students in the role of professional engineers as they design, build, and test integrated mission systems, including coordinated robotic swarms, remote monitoring interfaces, and structured mission validation procedures. Through systems-level thinking, teamwork, and applied problem solving, students will gain firsthand insight into how design decisions affect performance, reliability, and mission success. This innovative program will strengthen workforce readiness by exposing students to the rigor, collaboration, and accountability that define careers in engineering, computer science, and advanced STEM fields.

Growth and Expansion Plan

BEST is growing, and so is our National footprint. We're currently seeking educational partners to start new teams in the following states: Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wyoming, Washington D.C., Utah, and Idaho, Louisiana and .

If you are interested in learning more about starting a BEST Team, contact us online for more details: https://bestrobotics.org/contact/



2026 BEST Fall Competitions: Byte to Bite

In 2026, BEST competitors will take on tech challenges faced in Farm-to-Table Robotics with the newest BEST Robotics theme, Byte to Bite. Details on the game field, scoring metrics, and objectives will be released in the fall of 2026 at the Hub Kickoff Day Events across the nation. Stay tuned for more details.

Byte to Bite

Watch the Official 2026 Byte to Bite Game Teaser

2026 Sponsorship Levels

Sponsor Level	Donation Level	Sponsor Recognition
National Game Sponsor	$50,000	Display Space for pop-up banners and/or booth space at all Regional Championships and Local Hub Competitions. Brand recognition on all event promotional materials synonymous with the 2026 Game Theme.
Regional Game Sponsor (1 per Region)	$30,000	Display Space for pop-up banners and/or booth space at preferred Regional Championship.
Field Sponsor (1 per Regional Field)	$20,000	Logo on Regional Event Game Field.
Hub Sponsor	$15,000	Headline Sponsor for preferred Regional Hub. 3 Available. (Can be split between multiple organizations.) Field Recognition at the Hub Championship and brand recognition on all Hub promotional materials.
Platinum Sponsor	$10,000	Social Media and Event Promotion Recognition.
Gold Sponsor	$5,000	Logo and hyperlink on Regional and National Websites and scrolling slide deck at all Regional Events.
Silver Sponsor	$2,500	Logo and Hyperlink on National BEST Sponsor Webpage
Friend of BEST	$1,000	Name on National BEST Sponsor Webpage
STEM Hero	$120	Sponsors the cost of one student's BEST Robotics Journey.

Get in touch

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