

Our Mission

To inspire and interest students in engineering, science, and technology through participation in an exciting sports-like technology contest.

Our Goals

- ❖ Help students understand technical concepts and principles.
- ❖ Provide a real-world engineering challenge that includes limited time and resources.
- ❖ Offer an academic experience that encourages abstract thought, self-directed learning, and decision-making.
- ❖ Provide mentoring for students by accomplished professionals from the business, industry, and academic sectors.
- ❖ Provide team-building experience.
- ❖ Promote good sportsmanship and ethical conduct within a competitive environment.
- ❖ Encourage students to think about the complete business process (such as marketing and packaging).

How it Works and What it's all About

The BEST competition challenges students to build a remote-controlled robot that accomplishes a defined task within a competitive setting. Using only the materials provided, students have six weeks to design, develop, and test a robot that can outperform their competition. During this time, the students experience the same problems, challenges, and breakthroughs that an engineering team encounters when it takes a product to market.

The weeks of hard work culminate in a thrilling day-long competition where teams go head-to-head to achieve BEST performance. The event combines the excitement of a high school football game with the strategy of a chess match and the intellectual challenges of a science fair. Top-placing teams from Brazos BEST and other local contest sites advance to the Regional Texas BEST Championship in early December at Texas Tech University.

The heart of BEST is the experience of solving a seemingly overwhelming task using basic engineering methods and old-fashioned teamwork. Thanks to this experience, students who participate in BEST are better prepared to meet the challenges of the Technology Age.

BEST Hub Timeline Every Year

The BEST competition occurs during the fall, but Brazos BEST and other BEST hubs operate on a year-round schedule.

- ❖ Fund-raising: Ongoing
- ❖ Ordering Kit Supplies: March to April
- ❖ Developing Prototypes: June to July
- ❖ All Functions: August to November
- ❖ Kickoff: Mid September
- ❖ Practice Day: Mid October
- ❖ Game Day: Late October
- ❖ BEST Regional Championship: Early December

During the 6-week period between kickoff and competition day in the fall, teams can expect the following time expenditures:

Week	Activity	Days/Hours
1	Organization Meeting/ Brainstorming	3 days 3hr/day
2	Brainstorming/ Prototyping	3 days 3hr/day
3	Prototyping/Start Machine Building	4-5 days 3-4 hr/day
4	Machine Building	4-5 days 3-4 hr/day
5	Machine Building/ Practice Day	4-5 days 4-6 hr/day
6	Refinement/ Driving Practice	4-5 days 4-6 hr/day
End of Week 6	Local Hub Competition	Friday night & Saturday
Top-placing teams from local competitions advance to the Regional BEST Championship.		

Kickoff

Kickoff is the starting day of the competition process. Teams gather at a central location to hear about the game task and rules (held secret until this day), and receive the same kits of odd parts to use in building their robots.

Practice Day

Five weeks after the kickoff, teams at each local site have an opportunity to test their robots on the playing field in a mock competition.

Competition Day

Six weeks after the kickoff, teams compete in local contests for awards. Top-placing teams advance to the BEST Regional Championship a few weeks later.

It takes a lot of people to make this organization work.
What role could you play?

As a Local Volunteer:

- ❖ **Recording Secretary**
- ❖ **Financial Committee**
 - ❖ Fund-raising
 - ❖ Bookkeeping
- ❖ **People Relations Committee**
 - ❖ School Coordinator
 - ❖ Mentor Coordinator
 - ❖ Mentors
 - ❖ Volunteer Coordinator
- ❖ **Kit Committee**
 - ❖ Kit Procurement
 - ❖ Kit Assembly
 - ❖ Kit Officials at Game
- ❖ **Game Committee**
 - ❖ Game Committee Chairman
 - ❖ Field Development Team
 - ❖ Prototype Development Team
 - ❖ Awards Judges
 - ❖ Referees
 - ❖ Pit Boss
 - ❖ Scoring
 - ❖ Floor Boss
 - ❖ Master of Ceremonies
- ❖ **Publicity Committee**
 - ❖ Hub Identity Development
 - ❖ Web Page Development
 - ❖ Media Coverage
 - ❖ Publications
- ❖ **Event Committee**
 - ❖ Coordination of Three Key Events: Kickoff, Practice Day, and Competition Day

As a Hub Sponsor:

Several categories of support are available in supporting a local hub organization. Because a key tenet of BEST is for schools to participate at low cost, funding needs for a hub organization typically range from \$10K to \$25K.

As a Team Coach:

The role of a coach is to mentor, guide, and motivate students. A coach does not take over the process, force ideas, or build the robot.

BEST Games from the Past

(1996) **Block-N-Load** - Score points by capturing squares on the playing field. A square was "captured" by placing game pieces in it.

(1997) **Dynamite Duel** - Remove sticks of "dynamite" from an abandoned mine field and place them into an explosive-proof bucket at the top of the mine.

(1998) **Toxic Troubles** - Pick up garbage and place it in a collection containment vessel.

(1999) **Alien Escape** - Help "aliens" escape from a dying planet. Robots moved "alien pods" (fuzzy balls) onto the "rocket" or other scoring locations on the floor.

(2000) **Pandemonium in the Smithsonian** - Enter the Smithsonian to retrieve technical artifacts, reset fire alarm switches, and return to a safe location. Drivers had to rely on their spotters to "see" the game floor.

(2001) **RAD to the Core** - Save an overheating Nuclear Power Plant by removing fuel rods from the reactor. Extra points were scored when teams worked together.

(2002) **Warp X** - Build a robot that will traverse the rotating black hole and rescue the game pieces from all of the previous ten years of BEST games.

(2003) **Transfusion Confusion** - Safely transport as many blood cells (balloons) as possible into your portion of a Cell Saver used for blood transfusions. Above all, do no harm.

(2004) **BEST Fever** - Squeaky has the genetic disorder "BEST Fever". Your robot (Polymerizing Enzyme) is to enter his cells, denature the DNA and use the Primers to re-sequence his DNA.

(2005) **Mission to Hubble** - Robots are flown into place by the shuttle arm where they repair the Hubble Space Telescope by replacing batteries and gyros.

Important Dates to Remember for 2006

Brazos BEST Kickoff

Saturday, September 16
A&M Consolidated High School
Auditorium

Brazos BEST Practice Day

Saturday, October 21
Post Oak Mall

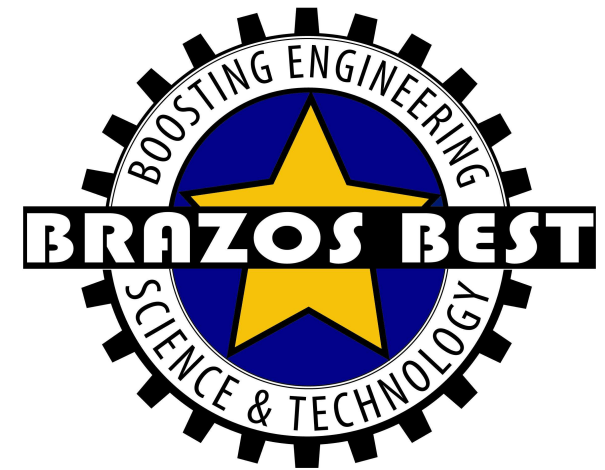
Brazos BEST Competition Day

Saturday, October 28
A&M Consolidated High School Gym

Texas BEST Championship

December 1-2
Texas Tech University

Email our Brazos BEST
Volunteer Coordinator by visiting
www.brazosbest.org/interact/volunteer
for more information on how you
can volunteer your time!



Celebrating 11 Years of
Serving Students in the Brazos Valley

The future rests in the hands
of today's youth.
The responsibility to prepare
them rests with us.

Visit our websites for more
information:

Local BEST
www.brazosbest.org

National BEST
www.bestinc.org