



The future rests in the hands of today's youth...

The responsibility to prepare them rests with us.

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 inspiring 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 Texas BEST Championship in late November.

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: Early September
- Practice Day: Mid October
- Game Day: Late October
- Texas BEST Championship: Late November

During the 6- to 8-week period between kickoff and competition day in the fall, teams can expect the following time expenditures:

Week	Activity	Days/Hours
1	Kickoff 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 Texas BEST Championship in late November.		

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 Texas BEST Championship a few weeks later.

It takes a lot of people to make this organization work.