Kansas BEST Robotics
April 2024 Newsletter

Hello everyone! Well, since Spring Break is in the rear-view mirror now, the end of the school year is fast approaching. If you haven't returned your kit yet, be sure to get it sent back before you leave for the summer break.

Registration for the 2024 game is open. Visit the Registry to get signed up for fall. We are still working on our competition dates, but will notify everyone and post it on the 'Events' part of the **Registry** as soon as we have them.

The teaser video for **LOW G**, this year's game, is at bestinc.org. It looks like a fun challenge! The Colorado School of Mines (new supporter of the Denver Regionals) has designed the game. Please take a look. You can use this for recruiting your team for next year, talking to your administration and parents, etc.

Info on the new controllers

We are getting more information on the new controller (known as Gizmo), and the technical documentation is taking shape. Documentation will be made available soon via the Registry (Annual Game Files & QnA section).

The package will replace the Cortex, joystick, the wireless keys, and the cable used in the wired configuration. All the rest of the returnable kit will remain the same. The cost for the complete set of components is just under $150. Much more affordable than the current solution. These will be made available for purchase soon (June is the current plan for teams). You are welcome to buy them, however please remember we will be using the Cortex for competition in 2024, both in Kansas and for Denver Regionals.

You can begin learning about the Arduino integrated design environment (IDE) and PICO here.

For a small glimpse of what this PICO module can do and its many applications, check out some of the projects that students might engage in.

Projects for PICO

Hackaday.io

We will be procuring a small number of the Gizmos for our Steering Committee to get trained up. We should have a few we can loan out to teams as well. Let me know if you are interested in borrowing one for a bit.

New Teachers/Coaches Training Plans

We will have an online orientation for any interested teachers or coaches **this summer**. My goal is to have a face-to-face, 1 or 2 day training event (with option for a Continuing Ed credit from WSU) in **2025**. That will be when we focus on getting everyone up to speed with the new hardware.

If you are interested in attending the online training this summer, please send me an email. I'd like to know your preference on timing (weekend, weekday, morning, afternoon, etc.).

There are also opportunities to attend the Texas or Denver Teacher/Coach training over the summer. Watch bestinc.org for more information as those as they are announced.

And, do forget, there are national challenges going on now (or in near future) if you have students interested in them. They include the Autonomous Programming Challenge (APC), mini drone challenge, BESTiq, Minecraft, and Prusa 3D printing challenge. All the details are at **bestinc.org**

Thanks for your time. If you want to be removed from distribution, let me know. If you know other teachers or potential coaches/mentors that would be interested, please feel free to forward this to them. All newsletters will be posted at kansasbest.org

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