



Kansas BEST Robotics February 2024 Newsletter

Hello everyone! So you have survived the cold snap and looking forward to Spring Break I'm sure! I know I am watching for signs of spring.



The teaser video for **LOW G**, this year's game, is at [bestinc.org](https://www.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.

We don't have dates for our competition events yet. They all hinge on when we can get Koch Arena for Game Day. And Koch has to get all the basketball and volleyball activity on the calendar first!

Spring Events Starting

Teachers and Coaches from 2023 should be receiving information from the national organization (BEST APPS is the sender on the emails so check your spam box if you aren't seeing anything) regarding the spring events. These include an autonomous programming competition, BEST IQ and a 3D printing challenge **and more**. See the flyer here and share with your students (not just team members from last fall):

https://www.bestrobotics.org/2024/BEST_Spring_Summer_For_Posting.pdf

Kits

We have received just over half the kits back. We will need to get them all back before you leave for summer. The new controller platform has just been announced (see below), but we will be using the current one for one more year. We want to have a chance to test components over the summer and replace where necessary.

You have options for returning your kits

- Return to WSU College of Engineering. You can drop off your kits at the reception desk of the Dean's office. This is in Partnership 2 (P2) building just north of GoCreate on 17th street between Oliver and Hillside.
- Ship it to us. There should have been an adhesive return label in the packet you received at Game Day. If you do not have that, here is one that you can print and attach to a box and ship it back. There should also be mailing instructions on the inside of the lid of the bin for the kit.



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From: Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount St
Wichita, KS 67260

TO:

Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount St
Box 44
Wichita, KS 67260

*Atten: College of Engineering, Kansas BEST Robotics Returnable kit,
Partnership 2, A123*

- Contact Linda if you need assistance getting the kit back to us.

Please return the kit in its original bin. You should check to see that everything on the inventory list (attached) is included. If anything is not functional, please mark it with tape so that we can replace or repair as necessary.

Here is my status on Kit returns:

| Number | School Name | Returnable Kit | Notes | Returned Date |
|--------|--|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| #0362 | Atchison High School | 3 | Will keep until May | |
| #0384 | Berean Academy | 16 | | |
| #0379 | Canton-Galva High School | 18 | | 2/24/2024 |
| #0354 | Council Grove High School | 8 | Will keep until 2/28/2024 | |
| #0360 | Ellinwood High School | 13 | | 2/10/2024 |
| #0370 | Garden City High School | 24 | | |
| #0355 | Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School | 9 | | 2/10/2024 |



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| Number | School Name | Returnable Kit | Notes | Returned Date |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| #0352 | Moundridge | 17 | | 2/10/2024 |
| #0375 | Osage City High School | 7 | Rec'd note on 11/1 would like to keep to 5/1/2024 | |
| #0365 | Quark Robotics - Rose Hill | 10 | | 2/10/2024 |
| #0359 | Republic County High School | 4 | | |
| #0372 | Rock Creek Jr./Sr. High School | 20 | | 2/24/2024 |
| #0364 | Smoky Valley HS | 6 | | |
| #0388 | Stafford | 23 | | 1/15/2024 |
| #0378 | Valley Center High School | 21 | | 1/15/2024 |
| #0381 | Washburn Rural High School | 2 | | |
| #0351 | Wichita Collegiate HS | 19 | | |
| #0358 | Wichita Homeschool | 11 | Will keep until 2/28/2024 | 2/24/2024 |

Please let me know if you have sent it but I don't have a date in the last column. Also, if I have highlighted your return date box, please let me know your plan.

Kit Upgrade Status

We received notice that the national organization has selected a Raspberry Pi solution to replace the controller in our returnable kits. They referred to the PICO implementation. I have done very little research on this.

The plan is to have complete deployment for 2025. They don't want mixed configuration within a region and the Denver region that we are in has decided to wait until the 2025 competition to deploy.

My understanding at this point is that the joystick and the controller will be replaced. I do not have details yet. We have Prototype kickoff this weekend and I hope to learn more there. We were told our cost to make this equipment upgrade will be about \$70 for each kit, so it is very affordable.

The national organization plans to roll out training to the hubs this year, and we will get some test equipment setup so we can get up to speed and be ready to bring it to you in 2025.

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

Linda Manfull

Co-Director Kansas BEST Robotics
linda.manfull@bestinc.org