



# Kansas BEST Robotics May 2025 Newsletter

Hello everyone! We are learning more about the game for this fall. I went with a team of WSU College of Engineering Students to the Prototype Game and saw the game field and prototype robots doing their best to complete the scoring challenges. There are several scoring opportunities of varying difficulty. This should be a really good game!

## Registration

[The Registry](#) **will be** used this year. A team will be looking at whether we will replace it or improve it for the future, but for this year we are good to use it during this season. I encourage you to get registered. We will accept up to 26 teams this year, and we have had several potential new teams inquire about [joining](#).

The following teams have registered (or at least stated their intent to register, see \*\*):

Wichita Collegiate HS	Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic HS
Wichita Homeschool	Republic County HS
Northeast Magnet HS <i>New</i>	Garden City HS
Rock Creek HS	Stafford
Council Grove **	Moundridge **
Atchison	Ellinwood
Rose Hill (Quark)	Central Christian Academy
HHC Robotics Club <i>New</i>	

\*\* expressed interest via email – need to signup in registry now

There is still room for more!

- If you want to register and you have participated before, you will use the same login on [the Registry](#).
- If you have a new team, the person taking on the 'Coach' role should [setup an account](#) (click on **Create Account** once you have opened [the Registry](#)) and then register your team. There is a pretty decent [help script here](#) to assist you with this.
- And if you have a new coach for a team that has participated in the past, please contact me directly via email. You can register as an assistant and then we can ask the IT support to remove the prior Coach and give you a promotion.

## Dates (these are still soft at this time)

<b>Kickoff</b>	September 6 Wichita State University, Rhatigan Student Center
<b>Practice Day</b>	October 18 or 25 Wichita State University, Heskett Center
<b>Game Day</b>	November 8 Valley Center High School



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## Returnable Kits

We have ordered the new Vex V5 kits. They will be shipped to us in mid-July.

Some have inquired about procuring **Gizmo** for use outside of the competition.

I received the following regarding **Gizmo**:

The Gizmo can be purchased <https://shop.gizmoplatform.org/password> . The Gizmo is now \$50 a unit. Delivery times will be about two months. The ordering site will be opened up to the general public at the end of April.

[bESTology](#) has posted 7 articles with ideas for student engagement, all with regard to the game theme this year. This is a great resource to learn more about AI, do some recruitment for your fall team, and inspire those young minds. This can even be a resource for the research paper that needs to be developed for the project notebook.

## Teacher/Coach/Mentor Training Opportunities

### Texas

Texas will be offering a summer camp for the adult leaders of the teams. Deadline to register is June 15 with the event in July. Cost is \$500, with \$100 off if you register before June 15. I believe this is the one Jon Baxa (Republic County HS) attended 2 years ago and said it was great experience. Here is the information I have received from them to share with you:

Participants will build and test a robot, develop a sample engineering notebook, and prepare a marketing presentation. They'll also take part in a simulated game inspired by the 2025 season theme, "Factoid"—a training-only version (not the actual game) that introduces game mechanics and strategic thinking in a fun, pressure-free way. Plus, they'll gain valuable experience with programming, teamwork, and problem solving—all with the goal of becoming more confident and effective BEST team leaders.

**As a Hub Director, you're also welcome to attend—for free.** Whether you're looking to get refreshed on the latest competition structure or simply want to network with the educators you support, this is a great opportunity to jump in alongside them.

### Special Offers for 2025:

- **Texas Teachers Attend Free** – Thanks to the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas educators can register at no cost using coupon code **TEXAS2025**. **Registration must be completed by June 15, 2025.**
- **Out-of-State Teachers** – Register by **June 15** with coupon code **TEXAS100** to receive **\$100 off**.

**Dates: July 11 - 14, 2025, July 21-25, 2025**

**Location: Allen STEAM Center, Allen Texas**



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## **Recommended Lodging**

Homewood Suites by Hilton Dallas/Allen

[455 Central Expressway North](#)

[Allen, TX 75013](#) — \$92/night

Tru by Hilton Allen Dallas

[1553 N. Central Expressway](#)

[Allen, TX 75013](#) — \$88/night

**Who Should Attend:** Teachers, mentors, coaches—and Hub Directors too!

## Colorado

The Colorado Hubs also have their Teacher/Mentor Institute (TMI) in July. It consists of some preparatory study, then 3 days in Littleton Colorado for hands-on and networking activities.

Details for that can be [found on their website](#). You can also contact Carolyn Bauer for more information on this.

As for us, since we had the unexpected change in direction for the hardware, and we have none of it in our hands yet. I am working to see if I can borrow at least one to use in a local 1 day workshop. I am planning to cover the various components of the competition, especially the Notebook. I intend to have one of our judges there so you can get their perspective on what makes a great notebook. I also want to cover the marketing presentation and Team Exhibits. There are many, many parts we can cover, but I want it to be valuable for you, so please let me know if you have any interest. I'd also like to know whether a week day or a Saturday would work best.

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](https://kansasbest.org)

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