



February 24, 2022



Hello! Here we are again at the start of a new BEST season.

2021 was lots of fun! If you would like to see what we did, there is a photo montage here ([click](#)). The awards that were presented are here ([click](#)).

Our 5 teams that advanced to the regionals competition were: Salina South, Valley Center, Wichita Home School, Rose Hill and Garden City. We hosted a local game competition in December for the 'Distributed' Denver Regionals. That was held at Valley Center High School. Our 5 advancing teams plus 2 from Frontier BEST (Alva Oklahoma and Burlington Oklahoma) played their matches here in concert with 3 other sites (Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Colorado). All were live streamed, and produced to make a seamless, online stream of the entire competition. What an accomplishment! You can see the results of the Regionals here ([click](#)).

So, last weekend, we had our 2022 Kickoff for Hubs. We got a peek at the upcoming game. It is being finalized and, staying true to the engineering process, hubs are building prototype robots to use at a 'test' event (we call it a prototype game) where final rules and field adjustments will be discussed, analyzed, clarified, and potentially reworked completely. That's what testing is about isn't it? All I can tell you at this point is the name – **Made 2 Order**. It is, as usual, very timely, creative, and challenging.

This is a special year for BEST. It is the 30th anniversary. There will be many special events and challenges as we work our way to Game Day, and Regionals in the fall. The first challenge is starting on **March 5**. It is an 8 week, autonomous programming challenge. Each week a new challenge will be presented, building on the previous weeks. Players will upload their results. The competition is 100% online, all run by the National organization. We encourage go to www.bestinc.org to learn more about that.



We will be using the National Registry (<https://registry.bestrobotics.org/>) again this year to register teams and manage the competition. Team Registration will open on **March 1**. We would love for you to get out there and sign up your team for this year's competition. And, as I send out these newsletters through the spring and summer, I will post the current list of enrolled teams so that if we have a hiccup in the system, we discover it BEFORE Kickoff Day this time – lessons learned from last year!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either by email or phone. My contact information is in my signature line below.

I am excited to get to work on this year's competition. I think it will be really fun and challenging.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Manfull".

Linda Manfull
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