

What People are Saying about BEST?

"BEST has been the one thing I can think of that has shaped my life the most. Texas BEST influenced my decision to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering."

– Jonathan Brewer, Texas A&M University and BEST alumnus

"Its so cross-curricular...the students learn about several fields such as robotics, marketing, communications and project management, but also about teamwork and working under pressure."

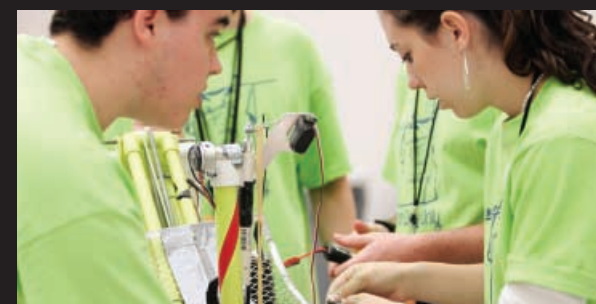
– Stan Arington, Auburn H.S. science teacher

"Together the engineer(s) and teachers make a powerful combination that results in one of the most unique learning experiences ever presented to a student."

– Ted Mahler, BEST co-founder

"It (BEST) might be mistaken for a sporting event ... pep bands and enthusiastic students will cheer on their students and robots with a matching decibel level."

– Wichita State University NewsRelease



Get Involved

START A TEAM — Schools can form a team and join a current hub (i.e., local competition site) by contacting them directly.

MENTOR A TEAM — Technical professionals can volunteer to mentor a team. Guide students through the design and construction of their machines and remember why you chose engineering as a profession.

START A NEW HUB — Teams compete in local contests called Hubs. Start a hub in your area – we'll show you how!

SPONSOR BEST — Help create your future workforce! Local BEST hubs rely on financial support from industries and/or universities in order to allow schools to participate at no cost. Because BEST is a 501C non-profit organization, sponsorship funds are tax deductible – and 100% of your sponsorship stays within the local community.

BEST wishes to thank our national sponsors for their commitment.

For more information:

www.bestinc.org
gettinginvolved@bestinc.org



Helping Middle and High Schools Experience Robotics since 1993



Our Mission

BEST is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization whose mission is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in a sports-like, science and engineering-based robotics competition.

www.bestinc.org

BEST Impact

- Student achievement and inspiration in engineering, science, and technology
- Business and education collaboration
- Maximizing the pipeline for future engineers
- Reaching women and minority students in rural and inner city schools

BEST Principles

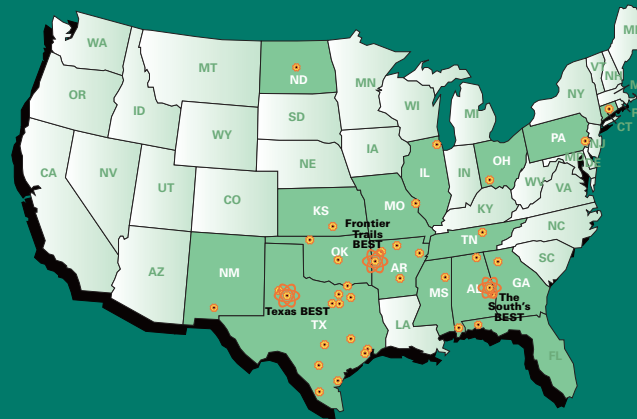
- Students take part at no cost
- Students are the primary participants
Adults serve as mentors and advisors

Two Levels of Recognition:

- BEST Award, given for excellence in the process of building the robot as well as the extent the teams boost engineering, science, and technology within their school and community
- Robot performance

Benefits to Students

- Increases understanding of technical concepts and scientific principles
- Provides real-world engineering experience with limited resources
- Exposure to the engineering process with constrained time period
- Encourages creative thinking, self-directed learning, and problem solving
- Promotes team building and sportsmanship



BEST is located in 16 states – and growing annually – with three regional championships in Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas!

The Experience

Using only the materials in the BEST-provided kits, student teams have six weeks to design, develop, and test a robot that can outperform their competitors. During this time the students experience the same problems, challenges, and breakthroughs that an engineering team encounters when it takes a product to market. In both cases there are team dynamics, time constraints, material constraints, and pressure from other teams that are trying to solve the same problem. Students experience school and community involvement that contribute to student success in the competition beyond winning an award.

BEST is a grassroots effort that began in 1993 with only 14 schools. Annually, over 600 schools are participating with over 10,000 students involved. See map to the left for states that have BEST hubs. BEST has had continual growth since its founding.

With this enormous reach, we help build the pipeline of future engineers. 1 out of 2 students surveyed stated their experience in BEST has influenced their plans after high school.

BEST attracts significant numbers of women and minorities (32% female; 26% minorities).

