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

“BEST robotics taught me a lot about strategy, creativity, technology, and many others. Most of all, it taught me about teamwork. We couldn’t have finished this robot in this time period without everyone’s contributions!”
– Amanda, Student Westbrook Intermediate, Houston, Texas

“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 501C3 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:
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**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

**BEST Divisions**
- BEST Award, given for excellence in the use of engineering design process, project engineering notebook, marketing presentation, spirit and sportsmanship, and robot performance
- 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

**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 800 schools are participating with over 16,000 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. Nearly 60% of BEST students stated they planned to pursue a career in a STEM field.

BEST attracts significant numbers of women (34%) and minorities (41%).