

Hello, and welcome to the Nebraska Robotics Expo! We have a terrific CEENBoT showcase shaping up for the expo at the Strategic Air and Space Museum on February 19th, 2011. There are several sections to the Expo, and they are summarized for you below.

Student Assessments:

The assessments will be similar to last years, with a cool 1GB USB flash drive silicon wristband for those completing the post survey at the end of the day. You will bring the completed pre-assessment surveys to the expo, and complete the post assessment in an open time-slot in the afternoon part of the expo.

Registration:

Registration forms will be sent to Eileen McCarthy (contact info on registration form). Individual questions about expo details may be addressed to Rita Corell, 402-551-5275, lightenup1@cox.net.

Parking:

With over twice the numbers in attendance as last year, we will run out of parking in the lots. Please carpool when you can, and plan to get to the expo early. If the parking lot is full you will have to park at Mahoney, pay a 4\$/vehicle fee, and take a shuttle van to the museum.

Organizational help:

You will be assigned a Freshman Engineering Student Volunteer for your school. We will be giving you each other's contact information for you to connect at the expo prior to the event. . *If you are registering multiple teams for your school, please have the teacher information and contact for each team by January 19th so we can get you connected with your student helper well in advance.*

The open space inside the main doors that we registered at last year will be a holding area for those waiting for teammates to arrive, and registration itself will be behind the paid admission's desk, with the FLL and CEENBoT areas of the expo clearly labeled. Our registration area will be to the right of the paid admissions desk.

Museum Fees:

Teachers and students receive free admission to the expo, with all others needing to pay at the admissions desk when they first enter.

Museum fees are: adults 10\$, military and seniors 9\$, children 4-12 yrs of age 5\$.

Registration paperwork:

Each student participating in the showcase needs to have a signed release form for photographs, and these will be collected at registration day of event. You will need one for each of your students participating. All students will need a signed form, and any late additions to teams need to be have a form completed by or at registration.

Lunch and T-Shirts:

Lunch and t-shirts may be ordered through January 19, 2011.

Lunch this year is being provided by the UNL Food Science Club student group, for 6.50\$. Lunch includes your choice of meat or vegetarian lasagna, tossed salad, bread stick, cookies and a drink. You may complete your order on-line at <http://4hset.unl.edu/4h Drupal/node/636>

The t-shirts are being handled by the PKI IEEE student group as a fundraiser this year, and order forms are available on the website. If you wish to pick your t-shirts up prior to the event you will need to make individual arrangements with the IEEE group (with payment already received), for pickup in the main CEEN Office during regular business hours, 8AM-5PM, M-F. Further details are on the order form.

Please bring a printed copy and your receipt of payment for the lunch to the museum day of event, as well as a backup copy of your t-shirt order.

Breakfast and Snack:

This year we will have the IEEE students providing breakfast items and coffee by the Plane Food Restaurant area as an additional fundraiser for their group. Food and coffee service will be provided from 7-9AM, with Plane Food opening for regular service shortly thereafter.

Snacks will be ongoing throughout the day in an open area outside the range of the Plane Food Restaurant.

Education at the expo:

There will be on-going educational presentations in the main auditorium at the museum throughout the day, and educational booths set up on the mezzanine deck of Hangar A.

CEENBoT Showcase Setup:

On-Going Exhibits:

There are no travelling exhibits for this year's event, like the DaVinci exhibit we had by luck last year. There is a "Fast Cars and Bikes" exhibit on-going, with very cool cars and motorcycles set up throughout the Hangars (We have the DeLorean and *several other beauties* in Hangar A). In anticipation of this year's expo the museum staff put cars under the airplane wings, and it does not intrude into the usable space for our event in the hangar.

Hangar A:

The upper Mezzanine area will be set up for educational booths, and sponsor booths will be in the main lower lobby area. Our main use for hands on robotic events will be in this hangar, with stations and rings clearly marked. You will have a table with your name on it for your school, to store bags and coats on chairs and have a space to sit and complete survey forms, eat, etc.

With the additional need for electricity for laptops this year, we will have the tables in a circular configuration with electrical access for you in the center with power bar strips.

Security: You will be bringing laptops computers for part of your work with the robots this year, and are responsible for your own equipment. Please bring a bag to carry it with you or have someone there to watch over any equipment you bring (same goes for handbags and other valuables).

Conference Room/Main Theater:

We will be using the main conference room, at the end of the Mezzanine level, for student presentations again this year, and we have the main Theater reserved for on-going educational presentations by sponsors. We are still organizing this part of the events, but anticipate half hour presentations throughout the day in the main theater (auditorium, SASM call it a theater so we call it that for clarity).

Showcase events:

Hands on robotic events

We have four events for you to choose from this year (Note: This is the last year for the TEKBoTs), in addition to several stations for students to hone their skills at around the circumference of Hangar A. Events are being planned so all age groups will have something to practice and be successful at. See the handout on the courses for more details on this.

During the competitive events and at the side stations we will have dry erase boards where we will write the last two fastest times, in lieu of giving times to judges to tally in a separate area. Teams will receive one run at the event arenas, and may try as many times as they like as individuals/groups at the side stations.

Student Presentations and Documentation

Documentation notebooks

Notebooks will be collected at registration. Please have your notebook(s) clearly marked with your school and contact information. Herb Detloff and his group will be judging the notebooks for us in a quiet space at the museum.

Student presentations

Student presentations will be in the main conference room at the end of the Mezzanine, triangulating with the main upper hallway. We will have presentations scheduled in a much tighter schedule this year, with part of the scoring including the

timely setup and conclusion of the presentation, in addition to illustrative examples used. We will have an overhead projector for your use if needed. You will need to bring a laptop and cord to plug it into the system if you choose to use a computer as part of your presentation.

Creativity

The section this year will be limited to the grade school level, and the theme is "What is a robot?" You may do a tri-fold display, and/or build a robot from any materials in any configuration. Robot displays may be based on real robots, or robots you would design for the future. Some ideas for consideration include, but are not limited to:

Defining what a robot is

Listing/showing examples of robots, both real and imagined

Impacts robots have in our lives: past, current, and future

This event is intended for students to spend time investigating robots, and learning from one another's displays at the event. Displays will be set up at the beginning of the morning and judged by mid-afternoon. Judges this year will be the freshmen engineering students from PKI.

Regrettably, I am out of town this weekend, and unable to be with you in person. I will miss seeing the final version of the robots in action, and being available to field your questions in person. Your questions help define the showcase as we go along, and we appreciate the excellent feedback you gave us at the meeting in September.

Please be in touch if you have any further concerns or suggestions for the expo, as we want this to be your expo and will tailor it to your suggestions and goals. The theme this year is carnival in nature, and we are very interested in your ideas on setup of stations, themes and prizes in the different areas.

Sincerely,

Rita Corell, CEENBoT Showcase Coordinator
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