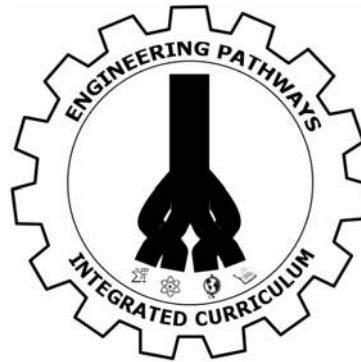


# Davidson High School Robotics Team Corporate Sponsorship Information



## What Is BEST?

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.

### Davidson High School, Best of the BEST

The University of South Alabama will serve as a local hub for the first time this fall. The regional competition will be held at Auburn University in November. Davidson High School has implemented a new pre-engineering program called Engineering Pathways Integrated Curriculum (EPIC). This is the first extracurricular event for our students. Davidson will send a team of **40 students** to the competition. This group will be a cross section of students. The team is made up of an **equal number of males and females**, and consists of an **ethnically diverse** group of students. We believe that there is strength and creativity in diversity.

### BEST Facts

- BEST Robotics Inc. (BRI) is a non-profit, volunteer organization based in Dallas, TX. Started in 1992 with 14 competing schools and 221 students, today BEST has over 700 middle and high schools and over 8,000 students participating each fall.
- There is no fee for schools to compete in BEST.
- BEST features two parallel competitions:
  - A robotics game, which is based upon an annual theme with four teams competing at once in a series of three-minute, round-robin matches.
  - The BEST Award, which is presented to the team that best embodies the concept of Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology. Elements include a project summary notebook, oral presentation, table display, and spirit and sportsmanship.
- Each school is provided kits of equipment and parts, a set of game rules, and given six weeks to design, build, and test a small Radio/Controlled (R/C) robot that outperforms other robots.
- Winning teams from local competition sites (called “hubs”) advance to regional championship sites (“regionals”).
- Engineers and other technical professionals from local industries serve as team mentors who advise and guide students through the design and construction of their machines.

### Organizational Goals

- Promote the growth of hubs across the U.S., thus maximizing the “pipeline” of future engineers, scientists, and technical professionals.
- Increase participation of women and minority students in rural and inner city schools.
- Enlist more colleges/universities and corporations to become collaborative educational partners with BEST.

### Attributes of the Competition

- Enhances teaching/teacher effectiveness
- Reinforces classroom learning
- Creates real-world academic challenge
- Increases students’ interest in and understanding of engineering and science
- Exposes students to new career opportunities
- Provides competition/fun
- Promotes school spirit and sense of community

### Benefits to Students

- Increases understanding of technical concepts and scientific principles
- Provides real-world engineering experience with limited resources
- Reinforces project management concepts with constrained time period
- Encourages abstract thought, self-directed learning, and problem solving
- Promotes team building, good sportsmanship, leadership, and ethical conduct
- Produces pride in success
- Gives hands-on learners an outlet to express their talents in a way that might not be evident in normal classroom assignments

## The BEST Process

Each team designs and builds a radio-controlled machine to accomplish defined tasks in a game-type format. Six weeks before the competition, the teams gather for Kick Off Day in early September at local hub sites where they receive identical kits of equipment (motors, r/c unit, batteries, etc.) and raw materials from which to build their machines, and a detailed set of game rules. The machines they build cannot weigh more than 24 pounds, must fit within a 24-inch cube, and must be built only from the raw materials supplied to them by the local hub.

## More Information

For more information, see the hub's website at <http://www.azaleacitybest.org>.

## The Role of Sponsors

### What is the purpose of a Sponsor?

Because Alabama's secondary schools lack the funds to participate in this innovative program, Davidson High School BEST needs businesses/industries to financially support the program by providing corporate sponsorships.

### Specific Financial Need

There is no cost for schools to participate. Students from Davidson have participated for three years at the competition in Auburn. Each of these teams has had **fewer than 6 members**. It is our goal to be more inclusive and more effective. BEST has added aspects to this competition that make it more appealing to the student who has no interest in building a robot. Students who are talented at project management, communications, technical writing, and even acting have a role to play in this year's competition. To give opportunity for our students, we will need to create it with your help. These are some of the specific needs that we have.

- Money to purchase our robot kit (to keep past the competition)
- Funds for the T-shirt contest
- Materials or money to buy materials to build a practice field
- Supplies or money to purchase supplies for our table display
- Donations of food or money to buy food to feed students who will work in groups for many hours at a time to achieve specific components of the project.
- Travel money when we win the local competition and have to take the team to the regional competition.

## Projected Budget

This is a projected list of possible expenses. This data was gathered from other schools who have participated with a large group in the past.

Robot components and consumable kit	\$ 800.00
Supplies to build a practice field	\$ 350.00
Supplies for the table display in the competition	\$ 300.00
Food for meetings	\$ 800.00
T-shirts for the team and mentors	\$ 700.00
Printing, photos, team notebook	\$ 100.00
Promotional gifts at the table display	\$ 250.00
Food at Regionals	\$ 150.00
Travel to the regional competition (15 rooms x \$50)	\$ 750.00
Charter Bus for Regionals	\$ 800.00
	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

## Benefits to Corporate Sponsors

Our t-shirts will carry your corporate logo onto a field of play with 24 other schools from New Orleans to Milton, Florida. Each team will have 20 to 40 members and an entourage of parents, mentors and faculty advisors.

- Puts community service in action
- Gets company involved in the community
- Great experience for employees-as-mentors/volunteers
- Good for recruitment - great public relations
- Enhances corporate gift-giving
- Establishes partnership with secondary and higher education

The three contacts below are the faculty advisors at Davidson High School. If you are interested in helping to create an opportunity for a diverse group of motivated students to participate in this event, please contact one of these three teachers. We can all be reached at the school's phone number. Email addresses are also listed for your convenience.

WP Davidson High School  
3900 Pleasant Valley Rd  
Mobile, AL 36609

Phone: (251) 221-3084

Fax: (251) 221-3083

Website URL: <http://davidson.mcs.schoolinsites.com>

Sara Martin

Lydia Edmonds

Mike Fletcher [mfletch3141@gmail.com](mailto:mfletch3141@gmail.com)