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Contact: Jenny Grigsby
Public Outreach Coordinator
jgrigsby@kipr.org
(405)579-4609 or (405)921-9612

Students From Arkansas Will Participate in Botball in 2008

Real Robots Don't Use Remote Controls

Norman, OK - January 13, 2008 - Botball robotics swept across Little Rock, AR on January 11-12, 2008 as representatives from Arkansas middle and high schools attended the Arkansas Regional Botball Workshop. The workshop marks the beginning of the 2008 Arkansas Regional Botball Season that closes with the Arkansas Regional Botball Tournament on March 15, 2008 at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

The purpose of Botball is to engage students from all backgrounds in using science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) as they work together as a team to achieve a long-term goal. Botball gives students the opportunity to be on the creative side of technology as they design, build, program, and document a pair of autonomous mobile robots to play in a competition.

Each regional program begins with its own hands-on workshop for educators and students, and culminates in a public tournament of student-built autonomous robots. As Botball focuses on system design and autonomous control (as well as mechanical design and strategy) there is never any joystick driving used, unlike many other robotics events. Students must learn computer programming and they must anticipate and plan, as they program their robots to play on a dynamically changing game board, in advance of the tournament.

KISS Institute for Practical Robotics, a Norman based non-profit company, will present 18 Botball Workshops and Tournaments this year - 13 in the United States and 5 based internationally. Teams who participate in their regional workshop and tournament are eligible to participate in the International Botball Tournament taking place this summer at the University of Oklahoma during the Global Conference on Educational Robotics on July 8-11, 2008.

2008 Arkansas Regional Botball Teams:

Annie Camp Junior High School - Jonesboro, AR
Arkadelphia High School - Arkadelphia, AR
Arkansas School For Mathematics, Sciences, And The Arts - Hot Springs, AR
Dover High School - Dover, AR
Mid America Science Museum - Hot Springs, AR

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