



Press Release

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PACTS STUDENTS HOST ROBOT WEEKEND 2008

October 11-12 AT THE FRANKLIN

Over 45 robots compete for the "Franklin Cup"

Philadelphia, PA – October 6, 2008 – The Franklin’s PACTS (Partnerships for Careers in Technology and Science) program partners with the Northeast Robotics Club (NERC) again this year to host **Robot Weekend 2008** on Saturday and Sunday - October 11 & 12. Amateur robot designers from all over the country will face off in action-packed, three-minute battles which showcase robotic ingenuity, engineering creativity, and resilience as enthusiasts try to out battle one-another. The weekend events culminate with the awarding of the “Franklin Cup” to the team with the most innovative overall robot design.

Over 45 robots, designed by both adult and teen amateur robot builders and ranging in size from a minuscule, one-pound robot to a floor-shaking, thirty-pound robot will participate in the competition. The goal of each match is to outmaneuver or disable the rival’s robotic creation by relying on either their small but lethal power or an arsenal of gadgets to disarm their opponents. The annual event at The Franklin provides the opportunity for the designers to display the technical ingenuity of their robots and their skill in engineering and computer technology in a competitive setting.

Following the all-day robot battles, visitors will have the opportunity to meet with the various groups of amateur robot hobbyists who will share their firsthand knowledge about what it takes to build the robots, repair the complex machines after conflict, and what strategies are most successful in this growing competitive arena. Competitions are held from 10am–5pm on Saturday and 10am–4pm on Sunday in Lower Harcourt Center. New this year, nearly 150 students from Philadelphia Public School BEST Robotics Program will hold a full practice run of the 2008-09 BEST Robotics Challenge here at The Franklin – just weeks before the competition. The practice run is held on Saturday from 10am–2:30pm in Lunchroom A. Both events are free with museum admission.

In existence since 1993, PACTS is a program of The Franklin Institute’s Center for Innovation and Science Learning, and incorporates science enrichment, cross-age mentoring, leadership opportunities and career development for diverse middle school and high school students within the Philadelphia region.

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