



**The Franklin Institute
Science Museum**

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**PACTS STUDENTS HOST ROBOT DAY
October 20th AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE**
Nearly 40 robots compete for the “Franklin Cup”

Philadelphia, PA – October 11, 2007 – On Saturday, October 20, 2007, The Franklin Institute will host Robot Day, a competition for amateur robot builders from as far away as Ontario, Canada, to display the technical wizardry of their robots as they compete with one another. The Institute is partnering with NERC, the Northeast Robotics Club, to host the event. NERC organizes amateur robotic training and events across the Northeastern United States. Robot Day is open to the public from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm and is free with admission to the Institute.

Nearly 40 robots, designed by adult and teen amateur robot builders, will meet in action-packed conflicts during Robot Day. In addition to teams associated with NERC, the Institute’s PACTS (Partnerships for Careers in Technology and Science) program for middle and high school students will field a 30-lb robot. Four categories of robots—Beetleweight (3lb), Hobbyweight (12 lb), Sportsman (30 lb), and Featherweight (30 lb)—will compete in matches that are three minutes in length. The goal of each match is to outmaneuver or disable your opponent. At the conclusion of the competition, The Franklin Institute and NERC will award the “Franklin Cup” to the team with the most innovative robot design overall.

In addition to the competition, Robot Day will feature a Tech Fair, which will demonstrate cutting-edge robot technologies used by NERC, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, MA), the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr College, the Wissahickon/North Montco High

School, Edison Fareira High School, and the School District of Philadelphia's Robot Initiative, among others.

“National interest in robotics among adults and teens is growing at a rapid pace across the US. The Franklin Institute/NERC Robot Day is an opportunity for amateur robot builders to display their ingenuity and skill in engineering and computer technology in a competitive setting,” said Michael Burch, Institute Director of Youth Programs.

The PACTS robotic tech fair is produced by the students of PACTS, which stands for Partnerships for Achieving Careers in Technology and Science. In existence since 1993, PACTS is a program of The Franklin Institute's Center for Innovation, and incorporates science enrichment, career development, cross-age mentoring, and leadership opportunities for diverse middle school and high school students within the Philadelphia Region. For more information visit www.fi.edu/pacts or 215-448-1333.