

How to become a sponsor of the CEC 2008 First Lego League Program

What is the 2008 challenge?

Each year the Challenge has a different theme and this year's theme is weather and climate, concentrating on the issues of weather, climate and climate change, and the complex relationships between them. Any individual or firm with a stake in the use of energy, climate, or climate change has a stake in this challenge as well.

Who are the sponsors?

The Chattanooga Engineers Club will remain the primary sponsor, with a commitment in excess of \$2000 to the program. The three other sponsor levels are "Platinum", "Gold" and "Silver", with commitments of \$1000, \$500 and \$200, respectively. This allows ANY firm or individual to become a supporter. In addition, platinum, gold or silver sponsors are encouraged to provide "technical resources" in the form of literature, mentors, plant tours and other educational resources related to this years challenge, "Climate Connection".

In addition, your firm may choose to make participation a "business expense" by sending a check to:

Chattanooga Engineers Club

P. O. Box 4031

Chattanooga, TN 37405

with "**Lego 2008 Sponsor**" on the memo line of the check.

Or make a 501c3 "charitable contribution" by making checks payable to:

Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga Inc.

1270 Market St.

Chattanooga, TN 37402

with the fund name "**ENGINEERS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND**" on the memo line of the check.

Any firm that wants to become involved in the research and presentation portions of the challenge may do so without becoming a sponsor, BUT will not be mentioned on CEC or individual team literature or web sites. In addition, there is another sponsor opportunity that is also "special".

The "local event" sponsor

As in past years, the CEC will provide a "practice" or "local" event on the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Each year one firm is asked to host the "local" competitive event. The Past year's sponsors have been:

The Challenger Center (UTC campus) – 2003 – Mission Mars – NASA robots explore Mars

The Siskin Children's Institute – 2004 – No Limits – using automation to assist the handicapped

The Tennessee Aquarium – 2005 – Ocean Odyssey – using robots to explore ocean and water quality

eSpin Technology (Enterprise South Park) – 2006 – Nano Quest – nanotechnology and robots

UTC SimCenter – 2007 – Power Puzzle – power and energy alternatives

In each of these cases, the local event sponsor is asked to provide an indoor location of 800-1000 square feet, on the Saturday before Thanksgiving (November 22, 2008), for the meeting and practice competition for teams in Southeast Tennessee. The sponsor must be closely tied to the challenge theme and make resources available on that day to answer questions and provide technical information to finalize and "sharpen" the research for each team's presentation. This has resulted, in past years, in two "First Place" trophies at the state competition. While this was clearly not the only factor, the energy and excitement that it adds to the team is obvious. If your firm could qualify as the local event sponsor, contact Ed Chapin or Cathy Burnett.

The purpose of the event is at least threefold. First, each team gets to practice competition against other teams. Second, each team has additional contact with experts in this year's challenge theme. In prior years, this has helped local teams score particularly well in "research and presentation". Lastly, each team gets to see

what the other teams have accomplished by that date. This is always very informative, both in seeing what they have accomplished AND in seeing how far they still have to go. No team that has attended the local event has ever been completely ready for Cookeville and no team has failed to benefit substantially from the inter-team contact. Refreshments are supplied, by CEC and sponsors, for the “local” event.

The Tennessee competition at Cookeville

The Tennessee competition, at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, is the climax of the year’s challenge. CEC and sponsors will supply bus transport to and from Cookeville (unless the team would prefer personal transportation) and registration and lunch at the Cookeville event. This occurs, each year, on the first weekend in December (December 6, 2008) and includes about 60 teams from the best schools in Tennessee, from Johnson City to Memphis.

The 2008 program

This year, we have standardized on the Lego NXT Robot for teams in the CEC program.

We will not fund clothing, logos and team personal equipment. Past years experience show this to be a small expense, but one that the teams would like to control and use as an individual team fund-raiser and a way to build team dynamics. This leads to more imagination and better team cohesion. If you would rather sponsor an individual school or team, contact us for the names of team coaches and current team needs.

Again this year, each team will use the internet as part of their “research and presentation”. The CEC web server will be available for each team to create and maintain a web site, and training in web site content and maintenance will be offered to each team. If the team chooses to use their own server (school system supplied, etc.), the CEC web site will simply forward to that site.

Use of Funding

As in past years, the CEC and sponsors will provide funds for team registration (\$200), a Lego NXT robot and accessory parts (\$365), the “game table” and challenge “mission” parts (\$100), and participation in the Tennessee competitive events (\$250 estimate). This means a budget of about \$7500 for this year.

In addition to “funded” items, the CEC supplies a wide array of resources from local firms regarding the current challenge theme. These include engineers, programmers and other human resources to help each team get started and move to successful completion. While FLL rules specifically prohibit coaches “doing the work” for teams, they have the answers to any question that may arise.

Things the CEC does not supply

Each team will supply one, or more, coaches that will manage team efforts.

As in the past, each team will be responsible for supplying a secure meeting place for themselves and the 4 by 8 table (which IS supplied) and the robot equipment. Each team will supply their own refreshments and other items during team meetings.

Each team is encouraged to develop ties to their school or group community by raising enough funds to supply their own design of t-shirts, lab coats, or other “performance” garb, as well as any printed material, “favors” they hand out during competition, etc. This is an essential part of the desired “team spirit”.

Each team is responsible for its own transportation to the “local” event and to the team’s regular meetings.