

In 1994 — **San Antonio BEST's** inaugural year — 12 schools, 250 students, and 60 mentors participated in the competition. We expect that in 2008, 32 schools, 500 students, and 100 mentors will participate.

San Antonio needs a future workforce interested in and trained for technical careers. San Antonio's current students need *you* to help them get there.

“Through such efforts as the BEST program, we are giving our young people their own boost... It's what I call “Points of Light” in action, and it is making a difference.”
— **Former President George Bush**



For more information about San Antonio BEST or to volunteer, call or write San Antonio BEST, 8111 Mainland, Ste 104-157, San Antonio, Texas 78240, phone: (210) 522-5556, or call Terry Grimley, Southwest Research Institute:

phone: (210) 522-2353

fax: (210) 681-9661

e-mail: tgrimley@swri.org

2008 Contest Schedule:

13 September – SA BEST Kick-off!

20 September – Team Training

19 October – Demo Day

25 October – Machine Check-in

26 October – SA BEST Contest

Visit us on the web at:

www.sabest.org

What are people saying about BEST?

“I used to hate math and science. Now they are my favorite subjects.”

— **Matt Newman, student**

“BEST has exposed my son to many opportunities that he would never have been given at this time in his life.”

— **Marilyn Davis, parent**

“The most important thing I learned was never to give up and keep trying, for your hard work and determination will eventually pay off!”

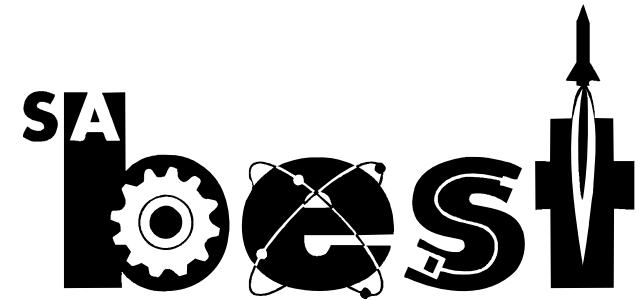
— **Dana Ford, student**

“It was the best experience I've ever had in science, and I'm a science teacher! Science fairs are not as emotional. This one was so much more fun. It was amazing to see how the competition itself brought the students together.”

— **Barbara Herbst, teacher**

“In my past experience as a student, teacher, or employee, I haven't had a class, been to a workshop, seen a program, or been associated with an activity that had such a profound effect on so many people's lives in such a short span of time as the BEST program has. I am grateful to have been allowed to be a small part of that.”

— **Bill Dollarhide, mentor**



**boosting engineering,
science, & technology**

***Building tomorrow's
leaders through
teamwork and
technology***

All children are born scientists. They ask questions, they probe, they ask why and why not? Soon, however, this sense of wonder is snuffed out by textbooks and dry formulas. Science becomes a realm for nerds. Area volunteers are out to change that impression with a thrilling competition that's part science fair and part sports event.

Each fall, we provide around 32 area high schools with a box of random parts and supplies and a unique task. In six weeks, students, aided by adult mentors, design a remote-controlled robot that competes head-to-head against other designs in a rousing all-day competition. More than \$90,000 in scholarships and an invitation to compete statewide await the top finishers. This is **San Antonio BEST**; an effort committed to awakening young minds to the wonders and practicalities of technology.

People like you are at the heart of the program. Engineers, technicians, scientists, administrators, and others from the Air Intelligence Agency, Northrop Grumman, St. Mary's University, Southwest Research Institute, and other companies serve as role models to motivate students to do things they didn't think they could do - like design a robot, organize a team, win a competition, and become an engineer or scientist.

Because **San Antonio BEST** is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, corporate sponsorship, and mentors are vital to our program. That's where you can help. Won't you join an effort that has already opened young minds to the wonders and practicalities of engineering, science, and technology?

Why should you support San Antonio BEST?

San Antonio BEST is a partnership that unites the academic, corporate, and government sectors to share their time, resources, and knowledge with youth. You can help inspire our high school students to work toward brightening their future through engineering, science, and technology. Corporate involvement can also reflect favorably on your organization - your community spirit will be well recognized.



What about technical mentoring or other volunteering?

Technical mentors and volunteers spend as much time with **San Antonio BEST** teams as they can afford. Mentors are matched with high school teams around August, and the six-week design phase begins in September. As a technical mentor, you'll guide students as they brainstorm concepts and eventually oversee construction of the robots.

The robots compete head-to-head at the local contest held in October. On the day of the contest, mentors oversee repairs and modifications to the robots between matches. Meanwhile, cheerleaders, parents, and fellow students cheer their teams on to victory, until only the winners remain.

Even without a technical background, **San Antonio BEST** can use your skills year-round to help build and maintain its current program.

Interested in corporate sponsorship?

All **San Antonio BEST** volunteers - even administrators - donate their time to the program. Their only compensation comes from knowing they helped with a cause in which they believe. Corporate sponsors fund all program materials and promotional efforts, and donations are tax-exempt.

Several categories for sponsorship are available that offer various levels of recognition. Please ask for details of what each sponsorship level offers.

Corporate Sponsor — \$15,000 or more
Platinum Sponsor — \$5,000 to \$14,999
Gold Sponsors — \$2,500 to \$4,999
Silver Sponsors — \$1,250 to \$2,499
Bronze Sponsors — \$500 to \$1,250
BEST Friends — less than \$500

We hope you'll join a few of last year's distinguished **San Antonio BEST** sponsors as we set out to make a positive difference in the lives of San Antonio youth!

Platinum — Cogburn Family Foundation, NuStar Energy Foundation

Gold — Cutshall Consulting, Southwest Research Institute, Valero Energy Foundation

Silver — Security Service FCU, Zachry Construction

Bronze — Frost Bank

Scholarship Donor — St. Mary's University, Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association.

Competition Host — St. Mary's University

National Sponsors — Alibre, igus, SolidWorks