



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## 2022 All-Earth Ecobot Challenge returns in-person, tasks students with robotics, sustainable living

**WHAT:** This weekend, over 300 Harris County students in grades 4-8 will participate in the 13th annual All-Earth Ecobot Challenge at North School High School hosted by the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids), a division of the Harris County Department of Education.

The hands-on, project-based competition motivates students to solve challenges based on real-world environmental issues using LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Core robotics kits. Students have been designing, building, and coding their autonomous robots since last fall.

Over 50 student teams from Aldine, Alief, Cleveland, Galena Park, Houston, and Humble ISDs, Academy of Accelerated Learning and Beatrice Mays Institute charter schools will compete for top honors and cash prizes during the all-day event. Industry professionals will judge the competition.

This year's theme, "Ecobot Kingdom: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink," will challenge students to imagine life in a self-sufficient town using green and alternative technologies. On challenge day, teams will earn points on the game board by programming their robots to complete tasks tied to three main functions:

- *Ecobot Architect* – students will be challenged to build a mini house made of recycled and upcycled materials
- *Ecobot Ew!* – students will be challenged to reuse and repurpose compost, food scraps, and animal waste
- *Eco-tricity* – students will be challenged to harvest and activate thermal, wind, solar, and nuclear energy to power the Ecobot Kingdom

The event includes the Eco-Genius Lab staffed by CASE for Kids collaborators, including Baker Hughes, Consumer Energy Education Foundation, Mad Science of Houston, SPDF Kids, and Math-A-Matics Tutoring. At the Eco-Genius Lab, professionals will conduct real-world science, technology, engineering, and math demonstrations.

Media wishing to cover must RSVP to [LCozzari@hcde-texas.org](mailto:LCozzari@hcde-texas.org).

**WHO:** CASE for Kids Director **Lisa Caruthers**, Ecobot lead teacher and game designer **Joe Panietz**, STEM professionals, educators, and over 300 Harris County fourth- through eighth-graders

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 23, 2022

8:30 a.m. Opening ceremony  
9:15 a.m. Practice rounds/Recycled costume contest  
**\*Media Availability**

10:15 a.m. Round 1  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Round 2  
2 p.m. Round 3  
4 p.m. Awards Presentation

**WHERE:** North Shore Senior High School  
353 North Castlegory, Houston, TX 77049

*Media may park in parking lot A, which has direct access to the main building.*

**HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | [hcde-texas.org](http://hcde-texas.org) | [communications@hcde-texas.org](mailto:communications@hcde-texas.org)**

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