What To Do To Prepare for RCX?

There are 8 things you can do to prepare for RCX.

1. Order the Mindstorm EV3 from **www.legoeducation.us**. Make sure you purchase the software package also.

2. Construct the Board. Instructions found at the RCX website, under the "Annual Challenge Information" tab, click on the "General Rules and Other Documents" page.

3. Field a robotics team. Members of your team are at your discretion. Follow the "General Rules" for age eligibility. Some schools open participation to everyone, other limit participation to Gifted and Talented students. The choice is yours.

4. After you have received your robot, follow the instruction manual and build the exact same robot.

5. Start to practice. Follow the "Tutorials" found in the software you purchased with the robot. These tutorials will instruct your students how to program the robot to move, use sensors, etc. Simple objects around the classroom; walls, desks, the floor and so on, are helpful objects for the robot to use. A simple piece of black tape on the floor, or other colored line, can be used for light and color sensors. Be aware of the ambient and reflective light in your classroom. How does the change of light effect the performance of the robot? Could the robot be effected the same way at the regional tournament?

6. Review all documents found at the RCX website under the "General Information" and "2013 Challenge" tabs. Make copies and have both the coach and students review.

7. Review the videos from the 2012 RCX Challenge found at the RCX website under "Past Challenge Documents" found in the left column of the home page. These videos will give you an idea of what to expect for this year's challenge.

8. Practice, Practice, Practice. Be patient and a lot of trial and error. More errors than successes. Teach how as you program you use math. Some programing lends itself to addition and subtraction. By using loops and switches you introduce multiplication and division. After you get comfortable, try using logic formulas.