General Information

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation, with the support of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), will serve Texas high school students by developing 225 new high school competitive robotics teams and supporting 300 existing robotics teams. The REC Foundation’s approach is to increase the accessibility, affordability/scalability, and diversity of participating high school students, mentors, and volunteers in after-school robotics programs. Additionally, the REC Foundation will seek to increase the number of VEX tournaments throughout the state of Texas.

General Team Eligibility Requirement

The eligible population to be served under this grant is Texas high school students in grades 9-12, including students from economically disadvantaged families, students enrolled in schools on military bases, students with disabilities, and children who are home schooled in equivalent grade levels.

New Robotics Team Grant Information

How does a school apply for a new team grant?
Those interested in applying for a grant to start a new VRC team must first meet the eligibility requirements listed in the project abstract listed above. If the new team meets the eligibility requirements above, the team mentor should complete a grant survey form (located on the next screen) for each new team to be started.

Can middle schools or junior high schools apply for the new team grants?
These grants are specifically for High Schools and Homeschoolers in high school grades 9-12 only, so schools/students not in 9-12 grades are ineligible.

Will school or locations be eligible to receive more than one grant?
Yes. Team mentors should complete a team grant survey for each new team that they want to start. The REC Foundation staff members will work with the team contacts to establish how many grants are appropriate for their location.

Will the REC Foundation send a check? How does the billing work?
No money will be sent to the grant recipient. Grant recipients will be sent coupon codes that will remove the cost of the respective items when they place the order. Teams will
be responsible for paying shipping on the grant items received.

What are the expectations for a team that receives a grant?
Grant recipients are expected to attend at least one VEX tournament during the 2014 – 2015 VEX Robotics competition season and all teams are asked to consider participating in the 2014 Texas Online Challenge. Teams should plan on keeping on touch with the REC Foundation regional support manager or grant administrator in their area.

Where can a potential new team mentor find more information about the VEX Robotics Competition and getting started?

www.RoboticsEducation.org
Information about the VEX Robotics competition can be found on the website. This information includes information about getting started, specifics of this year’s challenge and more.

Official portal to tournament listings for the VEX Robotics Competition. Use this website to register your team and locate scrimmages and tournaments close to your team.

http://curriculum.vexrobotics.com/
Autodesk’s VEX Robotics curriculum.

http://www.vexforum.com
The official online community of more than 10,000 active VEX robotics team members and mentors. Help from experienced competitors, VEX staff, RobotC staff, EasyC staff, and mentors can be obtained on almost every aspect of robotics competitions.

What other opportunities are available to Texas students receiving grants through this unique opportunity?
There will be a special Texas Online Challenge for Texas students in grades 9-12. Please visit http://www.roboticseducation.org/texas-team-what-have-you-learned-video/ for additional information about the Texas Online Challenge.

What happens if we get the grant equipment, but we are unable to create a team or build a robot?
The equipment remains the property of the RECF and remains at a chosen school/student sight as long as the equipment is being used, team is properly registered, and robot and students compete at an official VRC event. If the equipment cannot be put to use, the team contact should let the REC Foundation know and alternate arrangements for the equipment will be made. The RECF will take possession of any equipment that cannot be used properly.
What comes with the “New Team Startup” grant?
The new team startup grant includes a VEX Classroom and Competition Super Kit, robot registration fee, VRC 2014-2015 Cube & Collar Kit, and VRC 2014-2015 Skyrise Section & Base Kit.

The VEX Classroom and Competition Robot Super Kit will include:
- Clawbot robot kit (4 motors included)
- VEXnet system bundle
- Additional 2-wire motor 393
- Robot battery, joystick batteries and chargers
- Mechatronics add-on kit (1 motor, 2 sensors included)
- Programming add-on kit (2 motors, 7 sensors included)
- Autodesk Inventor, student version (5-seat license)
- Easy C V4 or RobotC
- Partner joystick
- 3000 mAH battery
- Joystick cable

In addition to the Classroom and Competition Robot Super Kit teams will receive:
- Additional 3000 mAh. Battery
- Additional AAA Joystick Batteries
- VEXnet Competition Switch
- Metal & Hardware Kit
- 3-Wire Extension Large Bundle
- 2 Linear Motion Kits
- 3.25” Omnidirectional Wheel (4 pack)

The total value of the grant is $1,500. Teams are responsible for paying the shipping fees for the materials. The estimated shipping cost is $35 - $50 for one grant’s worth of items.

Will there be VRC events available in remote/rural areas?
Yes. As we identify the recipients of the team grants, the REC Foundation will begin working to identify additional locations for tournaments. Texas tournaments can be located on www.robotevents.com. There will be Mobile VRC Trailers maintained to help provide equipment support to the new tournaments. These trailers will have all the necessary equipment to host a VRC event. Anyone interested in hosting an event should contact the Regional Support Managers to schedule the event.

Is there a cost or fee to host a VRC event?
The RECF does not charge anything for an Event Partner to host an event. Nor do we charge to provide support and training to the Event Partner (host).

The VRC Event model is most cost efficient when the event is held in a school gym,
cafeteria or similar space. Additional information about hosting an event can be found here: [http://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-competitionvrc/game-day-running-an-event/](http://www.roboticseducation.org/vex-robotics-competitionvrc/game-day-running-an-event/)

**Existing VEX Team Grant Information**

**Can any existing VRC team apply?**
Yes. If a team meets the eligibility requirements listed on page one and is willing to mentor a new team, then the team can apply for the grant.

**How does an existing VRC team apply for the grant?**
Please follow the directions outlined on the next page.

**What comes with the “Existing Team” grant?**
The Existing Team grant consists of the annual robot registration fee for that team, VRC 2014-2015 Cube & Collar Kit, and VRC 2014-2015 Skyrise Section & Base Kit. The total value of this grant is $199.98.

**Will the REC Foundation send a check? How does the billing work?**
No money will be sent to the grant recipient. Grant recipients will be sent coupon codes that will remove the cost of the respective items when they place the order. Teams will be responsible for paying the shipping fees for their items.

**What are the expectations for an “Existing Team” grant?**
Existing teams are expected to mentor a new team during the 2014-2015 competition season. The existing team is expected to maintain contact with their mentee team and help guide them through the process of getting started as a VEX Robotics team. The two teams will decide how and when the mentoring will take place. Every effort will be made to match up teams that are geographically close to one another.

**What other opportunities are available to Texas students receiving grants through this unique opportunity?**
There will be a special Texas Online Challenge for Texas students in grades 9-12. Please visit [http://www.roboticseducation.org/texas-team-what-have-you-learned-video/](http://www.roboticseducation.org/texas-team-what-have-you-learned-video/) for additional information about the Online Challenge.
**Application Process for New Teams**

1. Complete & return the interest survey with a copy of the school identification card and VEX consent form for each team member listed in the grant interest survey. Documentation should be submitted to: vex_twc@roboticseducation.org. If your school does not have identification cards, please provide a letter with the team members’ names and grade level that is signed by the principal. If this is not possible please provide a letter from a teacher or team member. Home school applicants should provide a letter from the local school district indicating that they have been advised that the students are home schooled, or a letter from a parent or guardian stating that the student is home schooled at the high school level. If the above is not possible please contact vex_twc@roboticseducation.org about other documentation that can be accepted.

2. A notification email will be sent to the team contact with the directions to register the team on www.robotevents.com.

3. Register team immediately (Grantee is responsible for shipping costs of team welcome kit.)

4. Directions for ordering the VEX Robot kit, *VRC 2014-2015 Cube & Collar Kit, and VRC 2014-2015 Skyrise Section & Base Kit* will be sent after the team is registered.

**Application Process for Existing Teams**

1. Complete & return the interest survey with a copy of the school identification card and VEX consent form for each team member listed in the grant interest survey. If your school does not have identification cards, please provide a letter with the team members’ names and grades that is signed by the principal. Documentation should be submitted to: vex_twc@roboticseducation.org. (Home school team mentors will need to provide a letter from a local high school which indicates the school district has been notified that the that the student is home schooled.)

2. A notification email will be sent to the team contact with the directions to register the team on www.robotevents.com.

3. Register team immediately (Grantee is responsible for shipping costs of team welcome kit.)

4. Directions for ordering the *VRC 2014-2015 Cube & Collar Kit, and VRC 2014-2015 Skyrise Section & Base Kit* will be sent after the team is registered.
TWC VEX Robotics Grant Survey Form

Please complete a survey form for each team that you would like to receive a grant.

Team Contact Information:

Name of School or Organization:

Address of the School or Organization:

Name of Main Mentor:

Phone # Main Mentor: Main Mentor E-Mail address:

Name of Alternate Mentor: Alternate Mentor Email Address:

Team Members:

#1: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#2: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#3: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#4: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#5: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#6: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#7: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

#8: First__________________ Last__________________ Grade___ Gender_____Ethnicity_______

Please answer the following questions (please circle one):

I am interested in creating a team that will compete in at least 1 Official VEX event YES or NO

I will make every effort to create a sustained VEX program. YES or NO

My team will complete the Texas VRC Online Challenge. YES or NO

Do any of your team members have a disability? YES or NO

Are any of your team members children of service members? YES or NO

Is your school designated by the United States Department of Education as “Title 1”? YES or NO