

From: Jotform <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 2:17 PM
To: nhawes1@maine.rr.com
Subject: Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters



SPCE Rotary Community Grant Application (2025-2026)

Contact Person	Sharon Etzweiler
Phone Number	(207) 712-3899
E-Mail Address	caperoboticsboosters@gmail.com
Requesting Organization Name	Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters
Organization Website (if applicable)	https://capersrobotics.wixsite.com/caperobotics
Address	Street Address: 345 Ocean House Road City: Cape Elizabeth State / Province: ME Postal / Zip Code: 04107
Is your organization a 501(c)(3). If not, do you have a fiscal sponsor?	Yes
Year Established	2023
Fiscal Sponsor Name (if applicable)	N/A
Fiscal Sponsor Address (if applicable)	Street Address: N/A
Type of Request	Student Services
Program / Project Name	Cape Elizabeth Robotics
Requested Amount	\$1000
Program / Project Description	Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters is a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports the Cape Elizabeth Robotics team. This year, over 100 students in grades 5-12 have signed up to participate in the program. High school and older middle school students participate in the competitive VEX V5 robotics program, in which teams are given a task and create their own unique custom robots that include

chassis, motors, electronic sensors, and pneumatic pistons. Students write code for their robots to work autonomously and to be driven with a controller. All the while, team members record their design process – including brainstorming ideas, researching, building, identifying problems, and managing time – in an engineering notebook. They then compete against other teams throughout the state, culminating in a state championship and opportunity to earn a spot at the VEX World Championships. Since 2011, our students have qualified for the VEX World Championship every year that the competition has been held.

Middle school students learn the basis of robotics through a weekly class to introduce and experiment with the principals of robotics and engineering. Students work in teams to build fully-functioning robots using introductory level VEX IQ parts, as well as to learn the basics of coding. This program is co-taught by middle school coaches and high school team members who volunteer to mentor the next generation of robotics competitors.

Cape Robotics has made some changes for the 2025-2026 school year. We have 3 new coaches (2 middle school, 1 high school) to meet the needs of our expanding program. Most notably, the middle school program has increased from 54 students in the 2024-2025 school year to over 80 students for the 2025-2026 year! While we are very excited about the growth of the program, it comes with increased needs for equipment, tools, and parts. While we have previously reached out to our community for support to cover travel expenses for our teams going to the World Championship, this year Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters has decided to ask for community support to help fund the program's operating expenses, with a goal of raising \$10,000 this year. Rotary Club has generously supported our students in the past, and we are once again asking for your support. Any contribution that the Rotary Club can make toward this goal would be very much appreciated.

Is this a time-sensitive request?

Yes

If the request is time sensitive, by what date are the funds needed?

12-31-2025

For Grant Requests over \$500 - Describe how you will define program/project success and what type of reporting or metrics you can provide to back to Rotary.

While Cape Robotics is always excited when student teams win championships and earn awards, our primary goal is for every child who has interest in robotics in Cape Elizabeth to be able to participate and learn. Therefore, our fundamental definition of success is to have the program reach as many students as possible throughout middle school and high school, which is measured by the number of students participating in the program. For older students, the quality of their experiences and engagement with the program may be reflected in the number of teams that build robots that are capable of participating in competitions.

Are there other ways that Rotarians can be of service to your organization/project/program (such a volunteering, mentoring, professional services)?

Cape Robotics is fortunate to have 3 teachers working as coaches this year, bringing new energy and perspectives to the program. While they are still determining some of the details for how the program will work this season, there may be opportunities for Rotarians to volunteer at specific events, including at tournaments/meets, and on a more ongoing basis mentoring students during work sessions. If any Rotarians are interested in volunteering as a mentor, please contact coach Adam Killip at akillip@capeelizabethschools.org. To volunteer at a competition, please contact Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters at caperoboticsboosters@gmail.com

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