

From: Jotform <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:38 PM
To: nhawes1@maine.rr.com
Subject: Re: SPCE Rotary Community Grant Application (2026-2027) -

\$1,000



SPCE Rotary Community Grant Application (2026-2027)

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: Cape Elizabeth High School Street Address Line 2: 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
Type of Request	Student Services
Program / Project Name	Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters
Requested Amount	1000
Program / Project Description - how would the grant money be used?	Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters is a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports the Cape Elizabeth Robotics team. 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.

Younger middle school students learn the basics of robotics through a weekly class to introduce and experiment with the principals of robotics and engineering. Students work in teams to build robots initially using introductory level VEX IQ parts and then shift to more advanced VEX V5 parts. They also learn the basics of coding to program their robots to complete different tasks. 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 continues to shift and evolve. We had three new coaches join the program last year, and they are working hard to meet the needs of students with a range of experience, from seasoned robotics competitors to students trying robotics for the first time. While two teams of seniors graduated last year, we are excited to have new high schoolers interested in trying out the program for the first time. Additionally, while middle school signups are still in progress, early responses show a large number of returning 6th-8th graders, some of whom will be joining the high schoolers in their lab to complete at state-wide competitions. We believe that the strength of our program lies in cross-age mentoring and passing down knowledge and experience from older to younger students.

Each year brings a new VEX game and, therefore, the need to purchase new field elements and parts. Additionally, our students benefit from being able to access evolving technology, such as AI vision sensors and GPS sensors. Given our needs to continuously update our materials and ongoing fees to register teams for competitions, Cape Elizabeth Robotics Boosters has 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?

12-15-2026

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 again this year. They have decided that two coaches will collaborate to work with most of the 6th-8th grade students while the third will coach more advanced 8th graders and the high schoolers. There are always opportunities for Rotarians to volunteer at the tournament we host each winter, as well as on a more ongoing basis mentoring students during work sessions. If any Rotarians are interested in volunteering as a mentor, please contact coach Amanda Kozaka at akozaka@capeelizabethschools.org. To volunteer at a competition, please contact coach Eric Huntington at ehuntington@capeelizabethschools.org.

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