

Robotics Team Definition:

A robotics team is an educational initiative designed to teach robotics concepts and engineering principles to a structured group of students who collaborate to design, build, and program robots with the intention to compete in organized competitions at various levels—classroom, local, regional, or beyond. Teams typically follow a structured curriculum that introduces students to robotics fundamentals, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Teams are also goal-oriented, focusing on strategy, innovation, and teamwork to excel.

Rules and Eligibility Guidelines

1. Must be a **public or private school** serving one or more of grades K-12 or a **non-profit organization** serving youth aged 5-18. (Start-up teams are eligible to apply)
 - a) Homeschools, homeschool pods and pre-k organizations that are not non-profits are not eligible.
 - b) A religious affiliated school or non-profit must meet the following qualifications to be eligible:
 - a. The school or non-profit does not restrict attendance or any of its activities based on a particular religious view
 - b. The school or non-profit does not restrict any membership or employment to a specific religion
 - c. The school or non-profit operates independently from the church as a separate 501c3 with a separate EIN/IRS number
2. Must be located in the [TVA service area](#) or TVA watershed.
3. Must receive their electricity from a [TVA local power company](#). (Exceptions made for watershed areas.)
4. Must submit an online application written and submitted by an adult Robotics Team Lead. (Submissions must include one back-up team lead contact. Submission from students will not be accepted.)
5. May only submit one application. If multiple applications are received from the same school/non-profit, **only the first one will be considered.**
6. Only completed submissions will be considered. (Submissions with incomplete or missing answers or forms will be disqualified.)
7. All applicants must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire prior to submitting a program application. Responses from the pre-qualification questionnaire will determine the amount of funds a school or non-profit may qualify for and request within their application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Demographics (All applicants will be required to submit the following information.)

1. Applicant name, title, address, email and phone number
2. School or non-profit organization name, address and county

3. If applying as a charter school, does the school have its own unique EIN (employee identification number) separate from that of the school district?
4. School district name, mailing address and financial contact information (name, address, phone number)
5. Has this school, non-profit or applicant received TVA funding in the past?
6. School or non-profit organization demographics - Please provide a short narrative about the student demographics of your school/organization.
7. Total number of students and grades served at the school or non-profit
8. Is the school or non-profit located in a rural, suburban, urban or other area?
9. Percent free and reduced lunch
10. Is this a title one school?
11. Which grade(s) are invited to be members of the robotics program?
12. How many students are in the robotics program?
13. Identify the **TVA region** your school or non-profit is located in? (Please review the attached TVA regional footprint to help with your selection)
14. Select the TVA local power company that provides electricity to your school or nonprofit.
15. Amount of award funds you are requesting: \$1,000, \$2,500, or \$5,000. (Requested amount must match the amount approved for from the pre-qualification questionnaire.)

Application Questions (Application questions will consist of the following categories designed to capture a thorough overview of the program and funding needs.)

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| 1. Program Objectives | 8. Student Impact |
| 2. Student Participation | 9. Planned Activities and Goals |
| 3. Program Structure | 10. Enhancements and Expansions |
| 4. Competitions and Achievements | 11. Educational Impact |
| 5. Participation in Established Robotics Programs | 12. Sustainability |
| 6. Current Robotics Equipment Inventory | 13. Budget Allocation |
| 7. Unique Program Features | 14. Travel Plan |

Award Funding (Payments and Usage)

All award funding and items purchased with funding become property of the school, school district or non-profit organization where the award was made. Should the robotics team lead leave, the equipment or funds must remain where the award was made.

1. Award payments will only be made to an organization **via ACH** and cannot be made to an individual. Paper checks will not be issued.
2. Award payments will be sent **to the district office** (not the individual school) and the district office will distribute funding to schools per their policy. (Battelle Education/TSIN, our third-party administrator, will not be responsible for district policies.) Exceptions may be made for award payments to private or charter schools and non-profit organizations.

3. No more than 25% of funds or maximum of \$750 (whichever is lower) may be used for uniforms/t-shirts.
4. No more than \$1,500 of funds may be used for staffing/stipends.
5. Travel within 300 miles one way (600 miles round trip), is permitted with award funds.
 - a. Exception: Travel to “Nationals” is permitted to any US location where the competition is held.
 - b. Funds may be used for all aspects of travel provided the majority of those traveling are students.
6. Funds may **not** be used to purchase:
 - a. Food, unless during travel
 - b. Furniture or fixtures unless the purchase can be justified as a necessary purchase for the robotics program
 - c. Entertainment not related to Robotics competitions/events (such as theme parks, movies theaters, aquarium, city tour passes, etc.)
 - d. Cash or gift cards
 - e. Professional development
 - f. Facility construction or renovation projects
 - g. General office supplies not related to robotics

Acknowledgment and Brand Recognition

As part of our commitment to fostering advancements in robotics education, TVA and BVI are proud to support schools and non-profits and their robotics teams through this award. Our goal is to not only provide financial assistance but also celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of robotics programs in education. To achieve this, we kindly request acknowledgement and brand recognition from all award recipients in the following manner:

Public Acknowledgment: We ask that schools or non-profits express their gratitude for the support provided by TVA and BVI through appropriate public acknowledgments. This helps to highlight the collaborative effort in enhancing Robotics education and encourages further support from the community.

Banners at Competitions or Events: Teams participating in robotics competitions or events, we request the inclusion of the TVA and BVI’s logo on banners or posters. This will be provided in a format suitable for printing and should be positioned in a visible area to acknowledge the support provided.

Team Apparel: Team purchasing t-shirts or other apparel, we request the inclusion of the TVA and BVI’s logo on the apparel. This will be provided in a format suitable for printing and should be positioned in a visible area to acknowledge the support provided.

Marketing Materials and Social Media: Teams creating marketing materials or engaging in social media activities, we ask that TVA and BVI be acknowledged as a supporter. This can include adding our logo to printed materials and tagging our organization in relevant social media posts. This acknowledgment helps to enhance the visibility of the support network behind the team and promotes further community engagement.

Photos and Videos: Teams are required to use the tag #TVARobotics in photo and video posts that capture team activities and competitions. Only include high quality images and videos. Videos should be 15 seconds or less and recorded in landscape aspect ratio. (Teams will be required to submit a photography release with their application.)

Agreement: By accepting this award, recipients agree to adhere to these acknowledgment requirements, which are intended to foster a positive and supportive relationship between TVA, BVI, Battelle and the educational community. We believe that these collaborative efforts are crucial in advancing the impact of robotics programs and inspiring future innovators.

**Additional terms and conditions may be required regarding program content submission and reporting.*