

CREATING and GROWING SUSTAINABLE ROBOTICS PROGRAMS

An interactive session discussing best practices for managing robotics programs

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ROBOTICS EDUCATION &
COMPETITION FOUNDATION

SUMMIT

| VEX ROBOTICS PROGRAMS |



vex
ROBOTICS

Mission & Vision



Mission

The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation's global mission is to provide every educator with competition, education, and workforce readiness programs to increase student engagement in science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science.



Vision

We see a future where every student designs and innovates as part of a team, overcomes failure, perseveres, and emerges confident in their ability to meet global challenges.



**Inspiring students,
one robot at a time.**

Introduce Yourself

Hello, my name is...

- Where are you from?
- Are you a coach or event partner?
- What program do you organize?
- What grade level do you coach?
- How long have you been coaching?
- How long have you hosted events?
- What do you like about coaching?
- Why do you host events?





AGENDA

Welcome!



Topics

Objectives

Task #1

Funding Teams

Task #2

Finding Sponsors

Applying for Grants

Becoming an EP

Call to Action

THE MAIN GOALS ARE TO:



INTRODUCE NEW METHODS

There are lots of ways to fundraise, and we hope you learn a few of them!



SIMPLIFY PROCESSES

"Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler." -Albert Einstein



SHARE RESOURCES

Steal from the best, and invent the rest!

WE ARE NOT HERE TO:

MAKE A ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL

Everyone's resources are different - so take what you need and leave the rest!



MANDATE PROCESSES

NONE of these methods are required. What you do and how you do it is up to you!

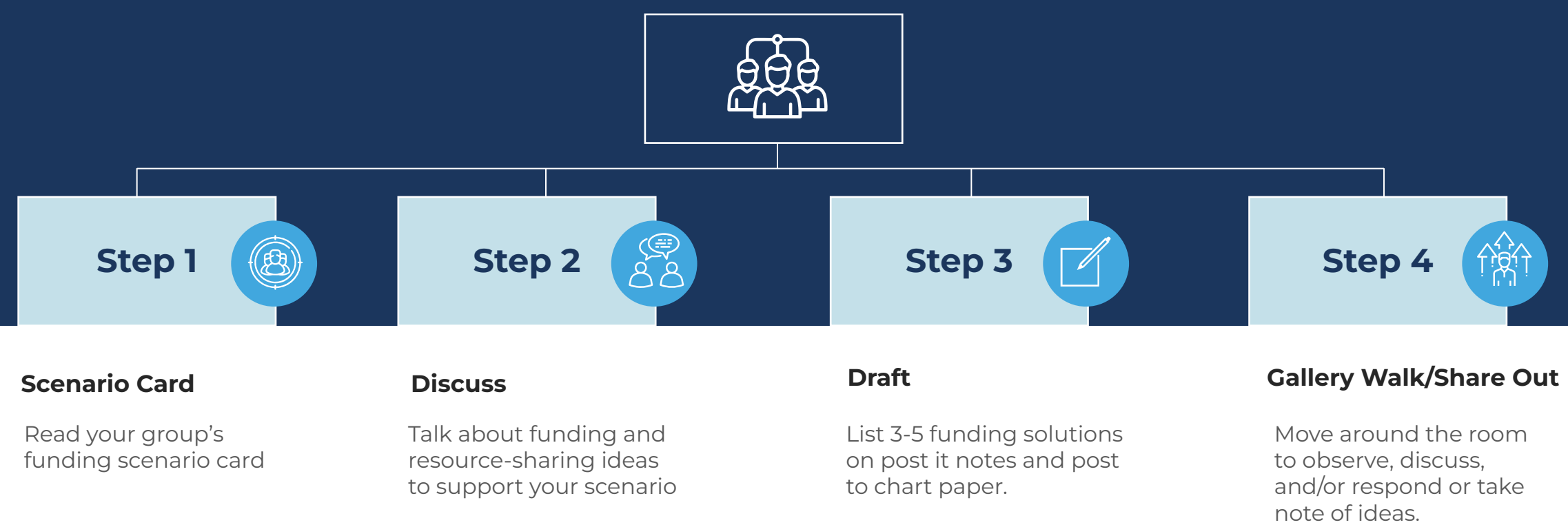


OVERWHELM YOU

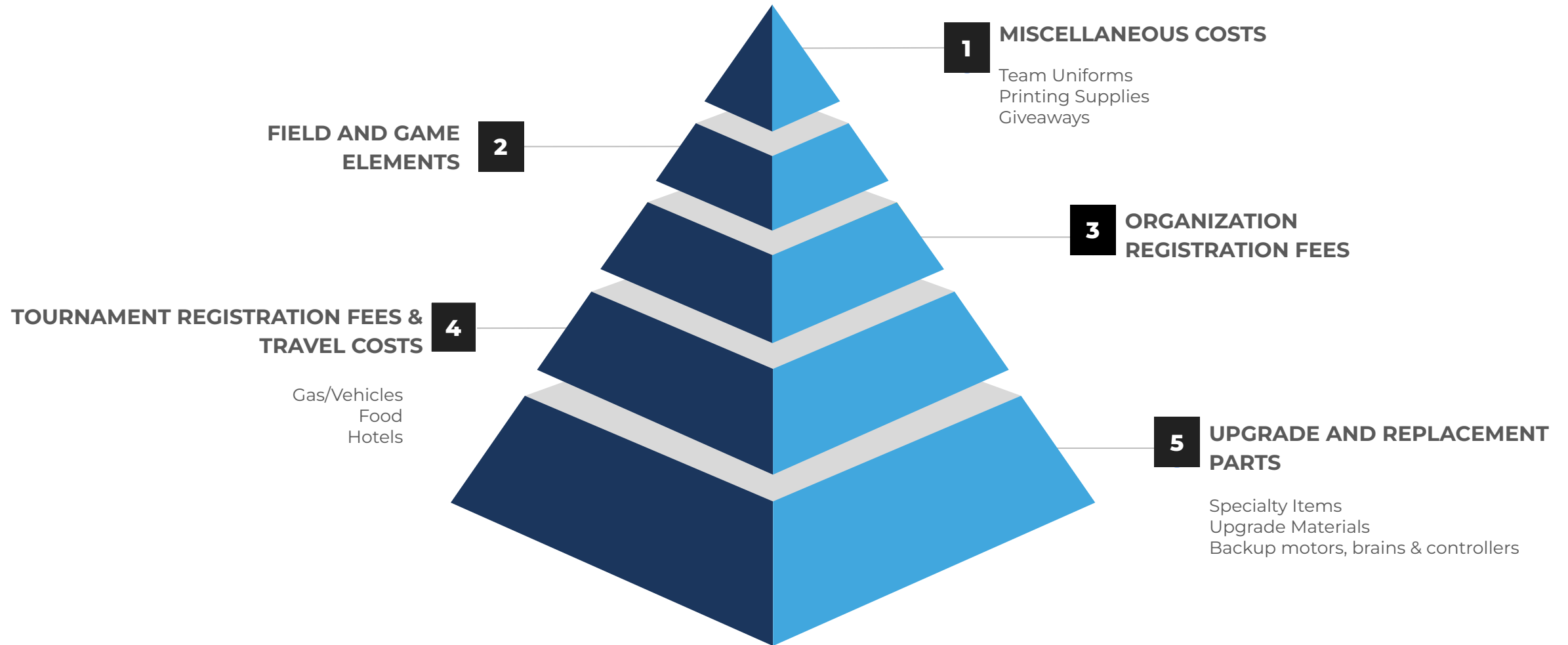
You don't have to recreate the wheel to be successful. All of this is free to use.



Goal: Generate creative ways to fund and sustain robotics programs



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO **FUND** YOUR TEAM?



METHODS FOR **FUNDING** YOUR TEAM

01



HOSTING CAMPS

Offers opportunities for leadership and growth while potentially funding your organization
camps.vex.com

02



REC FOUNDATION GRANTS

How to find and utilize our Grant Application Process
robotevents.com/grants

03



HOST A TOURNAMENT

Becoming a certified Event Partner is free, easy, and helpful for your community and organization

04



SPONSORSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

Learn how to develop a relationship with businesses in your community

Task #2

Goal: Share one success in sustaining your program and one challenge you're still trying to solve.



Step 1



Independent

Reflect and think of one success and one challenge

Step 2



Draft

Write down your success and challenge on one side of the notecard

Step 3



Discuss

Talk about takeaways from the shared successes or tips for the challenges, and make some notes on the other side of your card

Step 4



Share Out

Share a takeaway or tip you learned

FINDING **PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS**



MOST BUSINESSES HAVE BUDGETS OR GRANTS FOR PHILANTHROPY

Create your budget, present to local businesses (in person or electronically), and do follow-ups



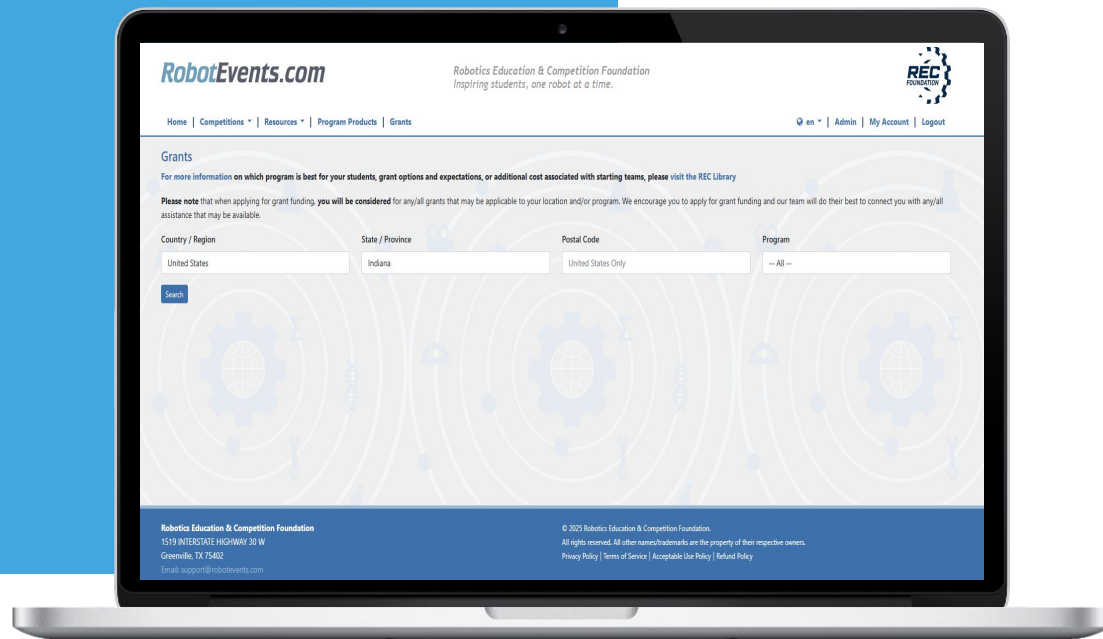
TELL YOUR STORY!

Everyone loves a good backstory! Try advertising online, in local newspapers, and by word of mouth



PARTNERSHIP VS. SPONSORSHIP

Try to create a way for your sponsors to “earn back” their donations via demos, interns, features, advertising, etc



Apply for REC Foundation Grants

The REC Foundation grant team diligently connects schools and organizations with funding opportunities made possible by our generous sponsors. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at grants@recf.org.

01

Register a [RobotEvents.com](https://www.robotevents.com) Account

You must have a verified RobotEvents account to apply for grants

02

Complete Background Check

A background check must be complete before applications can be reviewed

03

Register Teams

Register teams in your RobotEvents account and select 'Pay Later'

04

Apply for a Grant

Use the Grants tab at the top of [RobotEvents.com](https://www.robotevents.com) to apply



NEED HELP?

Visit the Competitive Team Grant Program REC Library article

WHY BECOME AN **EVENT PARTNER?**

FREE TROPHY PACK

Free trophy pack for your first event that includes judging each season.



LESS TOURNAMENT FEES & TRAVEL

You don't have to pay to attend your own events, and it reduces your travel costs!



ADDITIONAL REVENUE

Raise money for your program through Event Fees, Concessions, and Apparel Sales



TRADE REGISTRATION FOR HELP

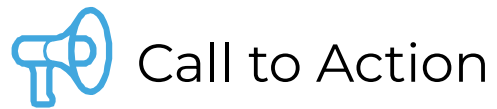
As an EP, you can ask attending Teams for assistance with elements, electronics, etc, in exchange for a "free" registration.



ADMIN SUPPORT & BUY-IN

Show your Admin the amazing results achieved by sparking an interest in STEM through robotics.





Create a plan to sustain a robotics program on a limited budget



01

BRAINSTORM

Think about a 3-year sustainability plan focusing on funding, participation, equity, and community engagement



02

DRAFT

Write a 3-year plan to keep your robotics program funded and equitable.
Some ideas to address:

- Budget and Funding Sources
- Equitable Access
- Community and Parent Engagement
- Facility Usage
- Student Recruitment and Retention



03

NETWORK

Post your plan, utilize resources, and network with your peers in the Google Classroom to continue the work to create and grow sustainable robotics programs

Contact

We are here for you

Event Partners and Coaches are the core of our Programs here at the REC Foundation. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for all of your support.

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[Resources](#)



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