

# 2025-2026 RECF Summit for VEX Robotics Programs



ROBOTICS EDUCATION &  
COMPETITION FOUNDATION

# SUMMIT

| VEX ROBOTICS PROGRAMS |



RECF Staff

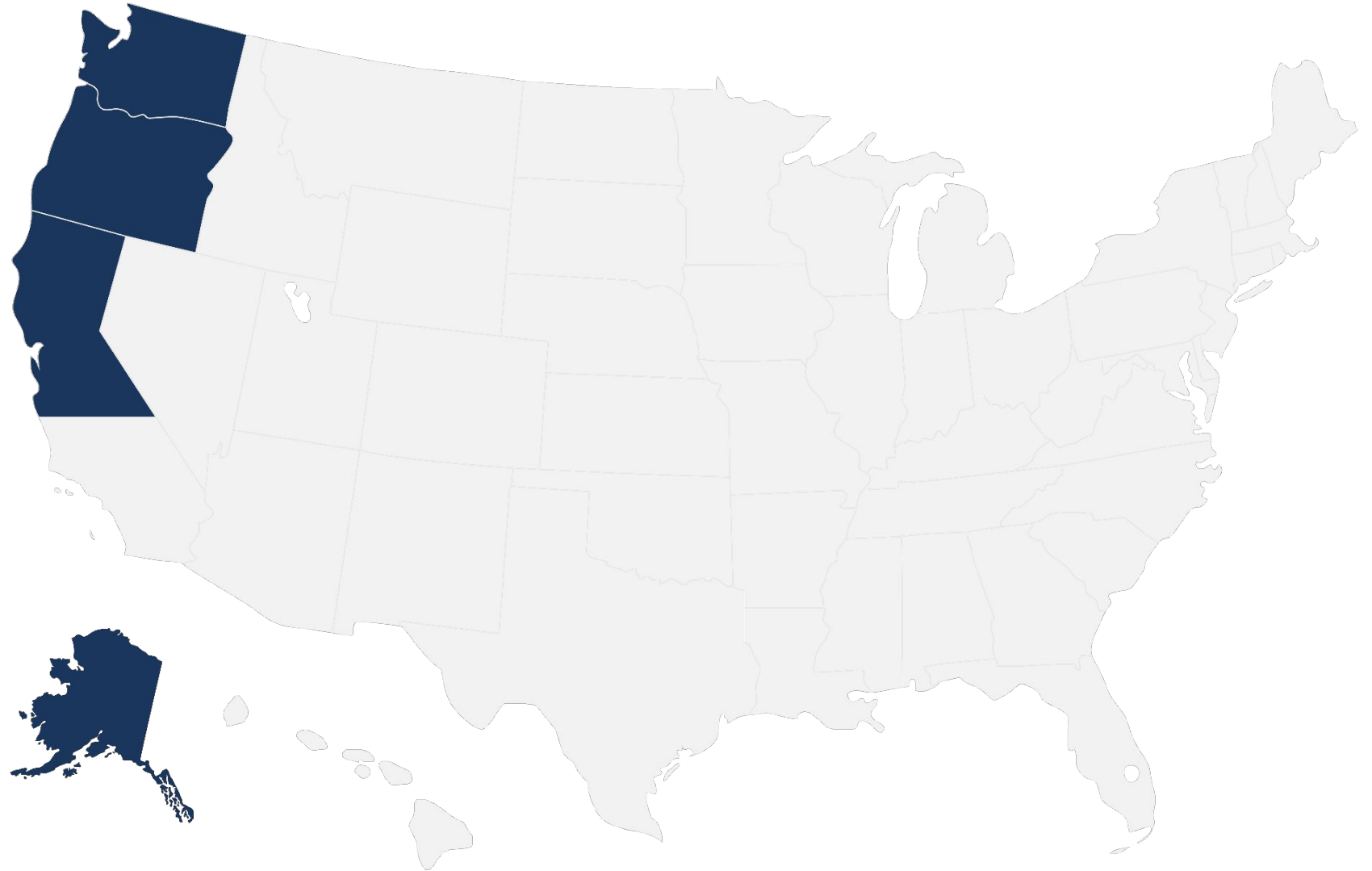
# Territory 1



**Richard Craig**

richard\_craig@recf.org

- **Washington**
- **Oregon**
- **Northern California  
(1/2)**
- **Alaska**



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# Territory 2



**Bill Cahill**

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- **Southern California (3/4)**
- **Hawaii**
- **American Samoa**
- **Northern Mariana Islands**
- **Guam**



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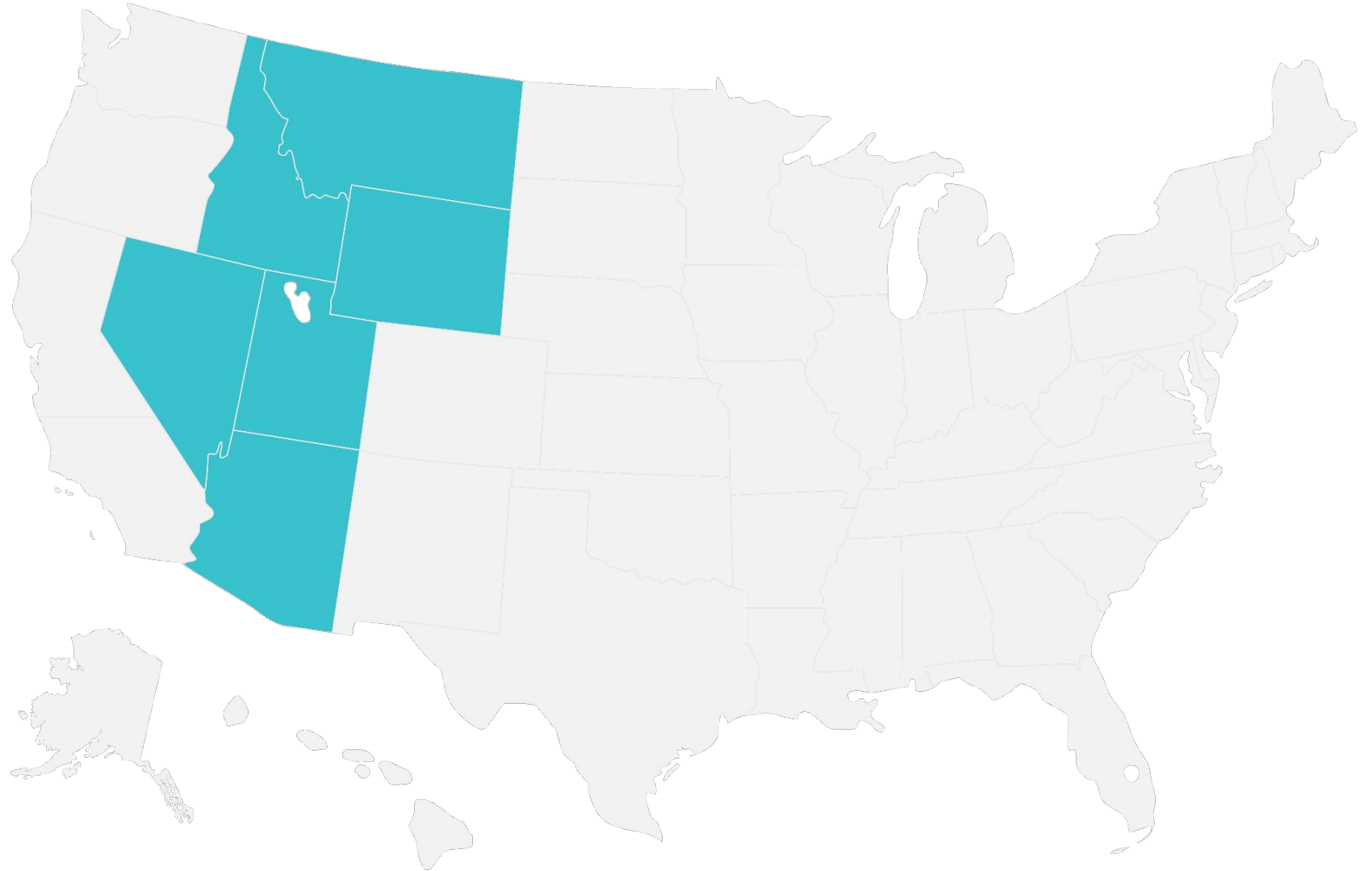
# Territory 3



**Heather Harris**

heather\_harris@recf.org

- **Idaho**
- **Montana**
- **Wyoming**
- **Nevada**
- **Utah**
- **Arizona**





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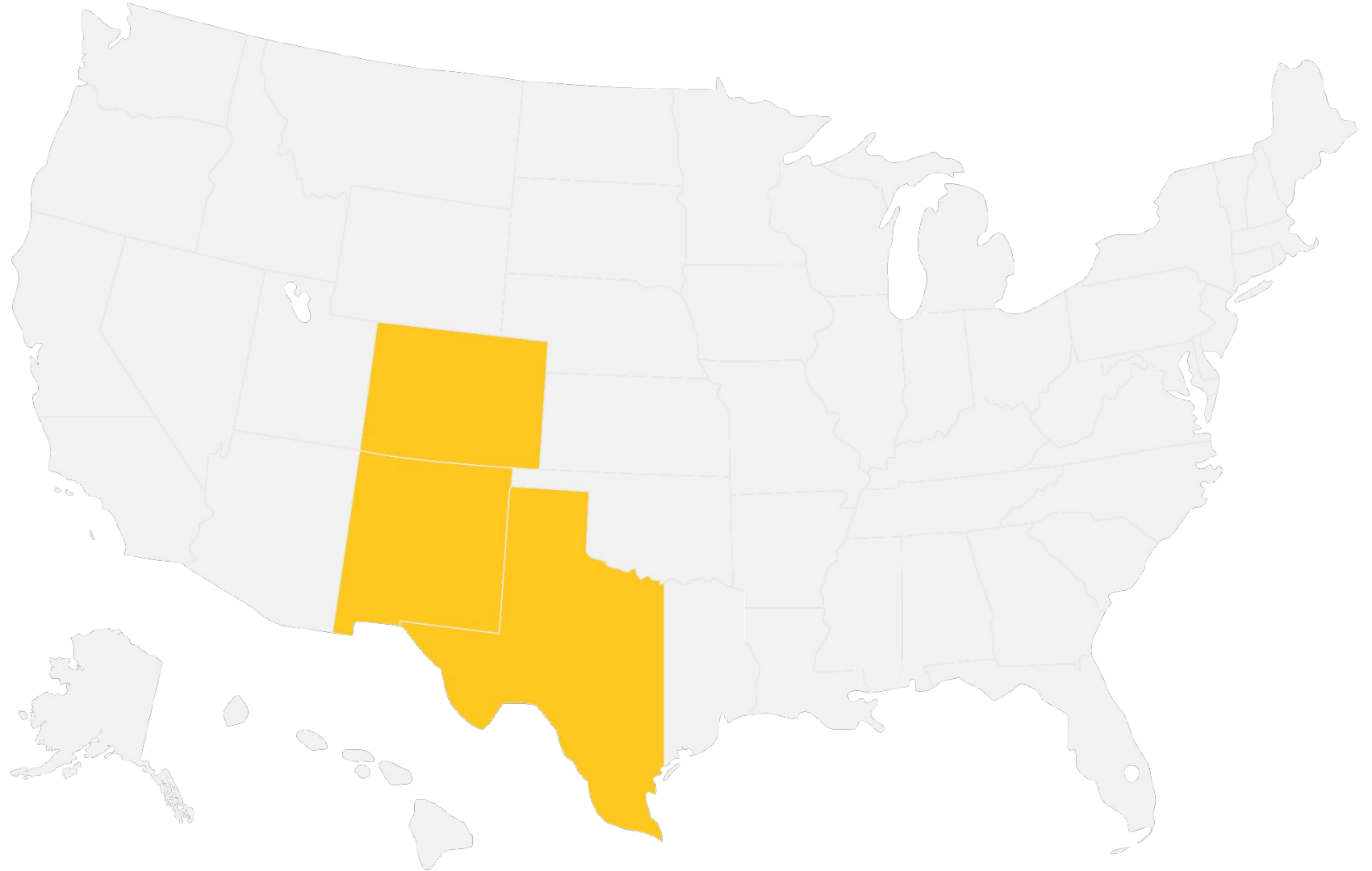
# Territory 4



**Raul Torres**

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- **Colorado**
- **New Mexico**
- **Texas (1, 4, 5, 6)**



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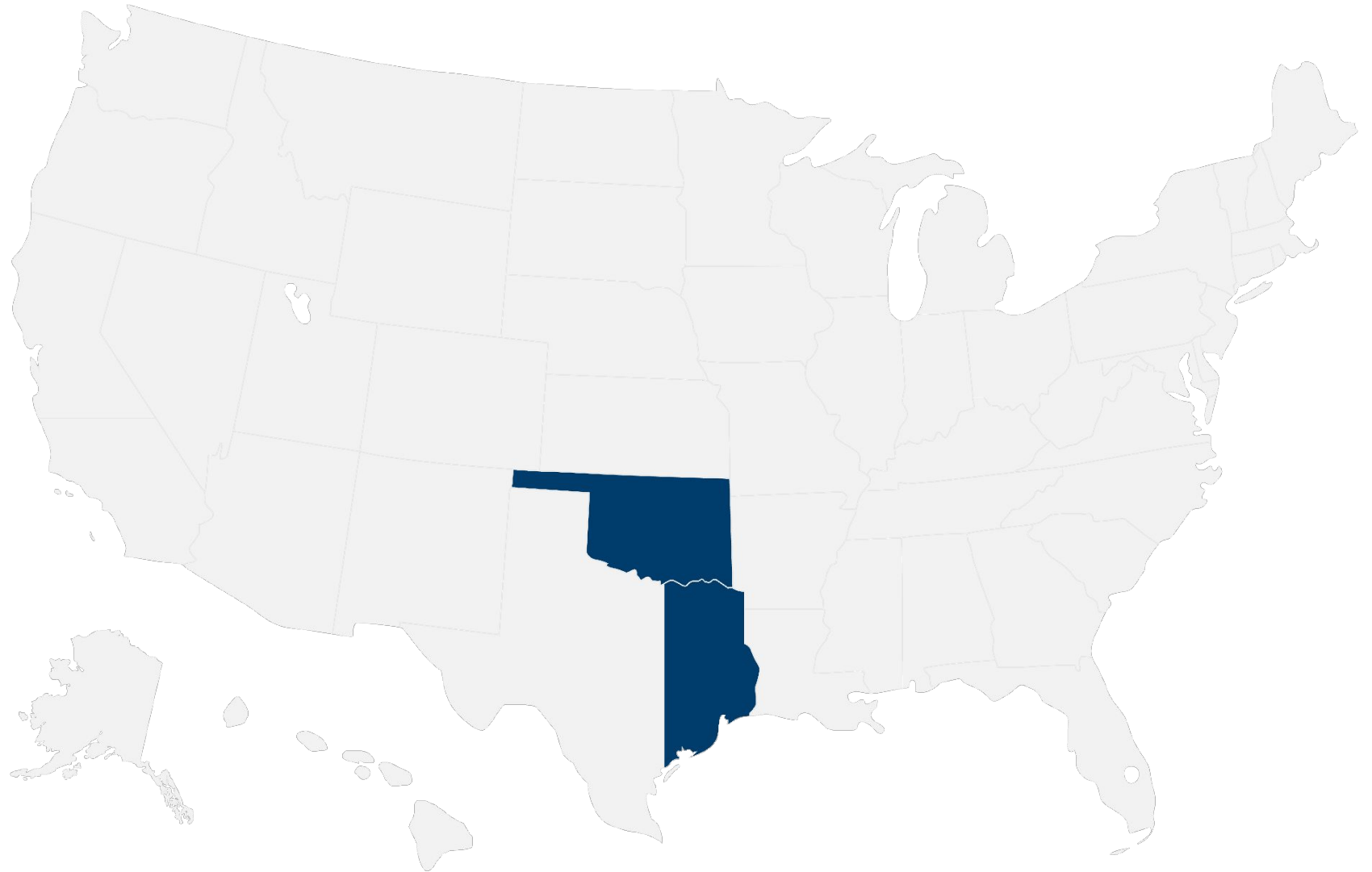
# Territory 5



**Bobbi Mitchell**

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- **Texas (2, 3)**
- **Oklahoma**



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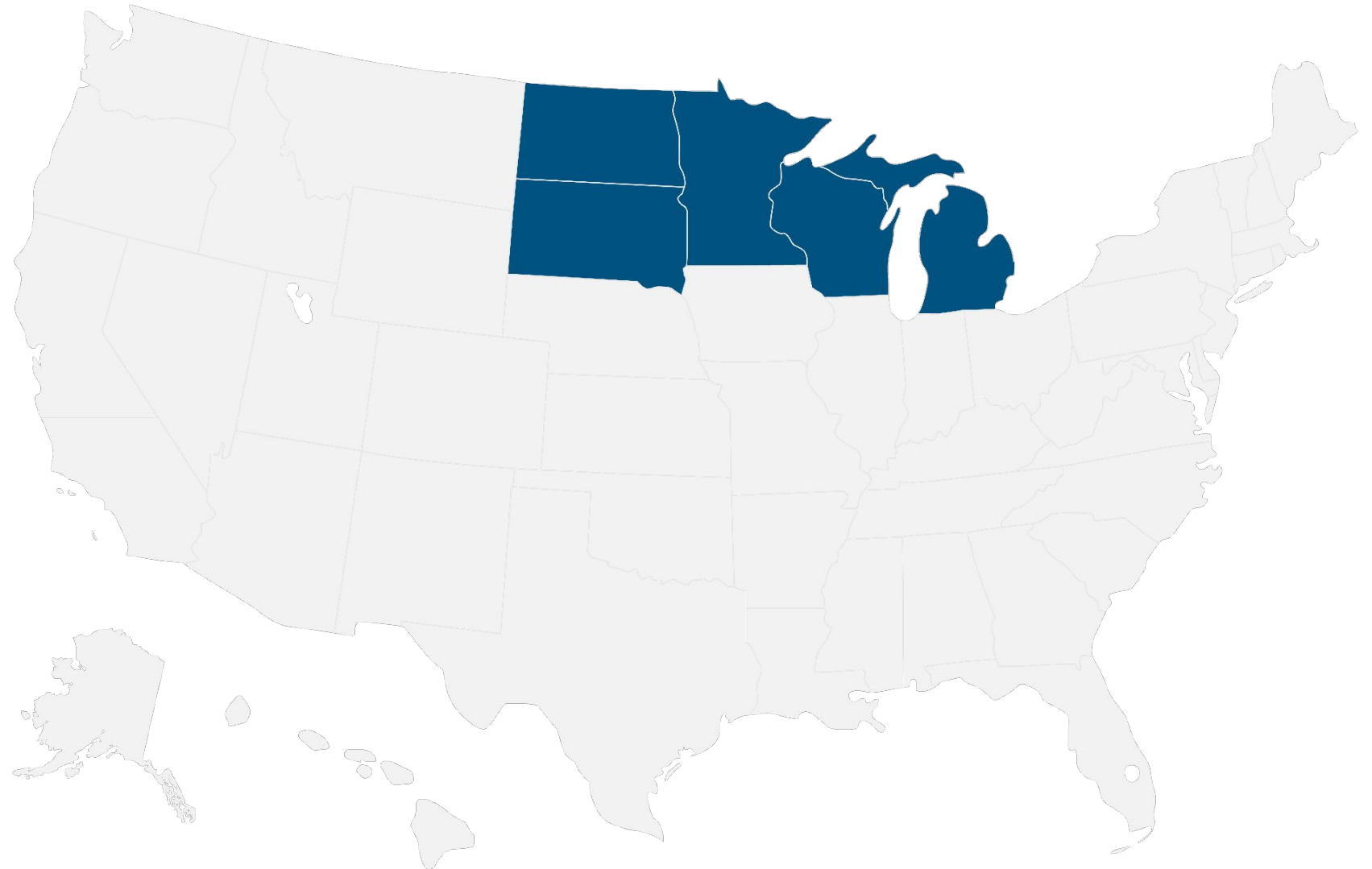
# Territory 6



**Chris Stewart**

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- **Michigan**
- **Minnesota**
- **North Dakota**
- **South Dakota**
- **Wisconsin**



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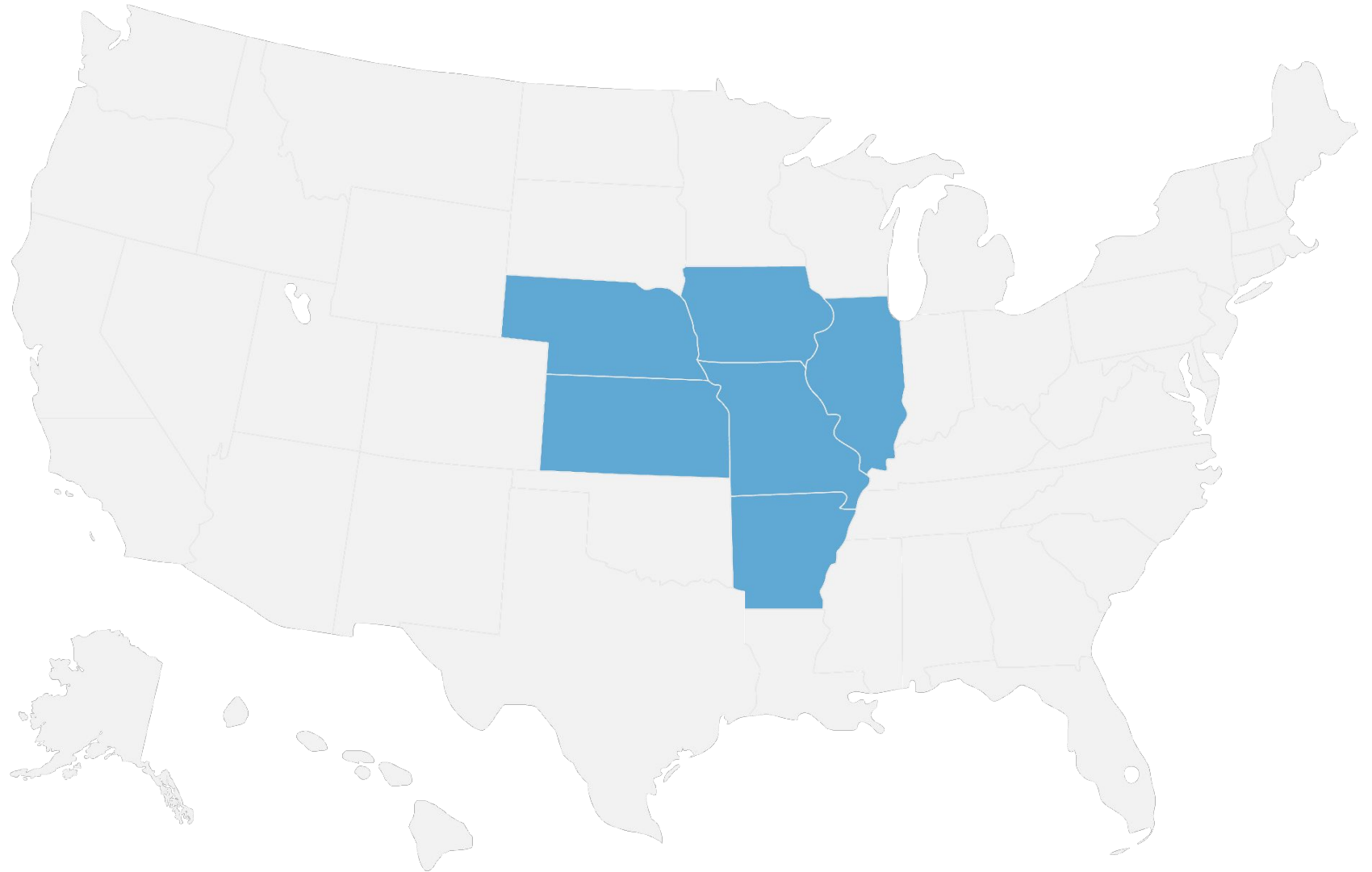
# Territory 7



**Randy Decker**

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- **Arkansas**
- **Illinois**
- **Iowa**
- **Nebraska**
- **Kansas**
- **Missouri**





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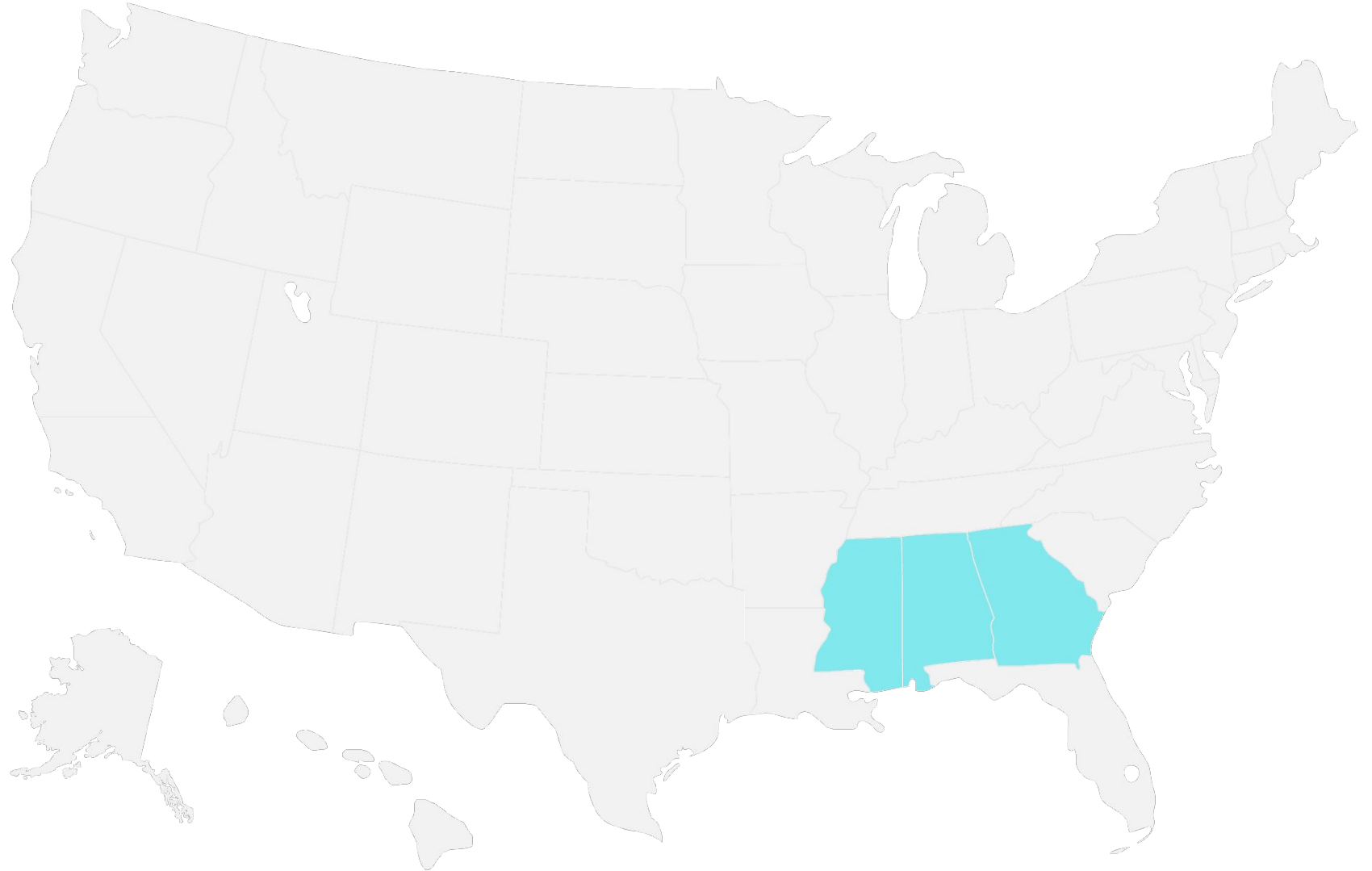
# Territory 8



**SCORE**

[score@recf.org](mailto:score@recf.org)

- **Alabama**
- **Georgia**
- **Mississippi**



RECF Staff

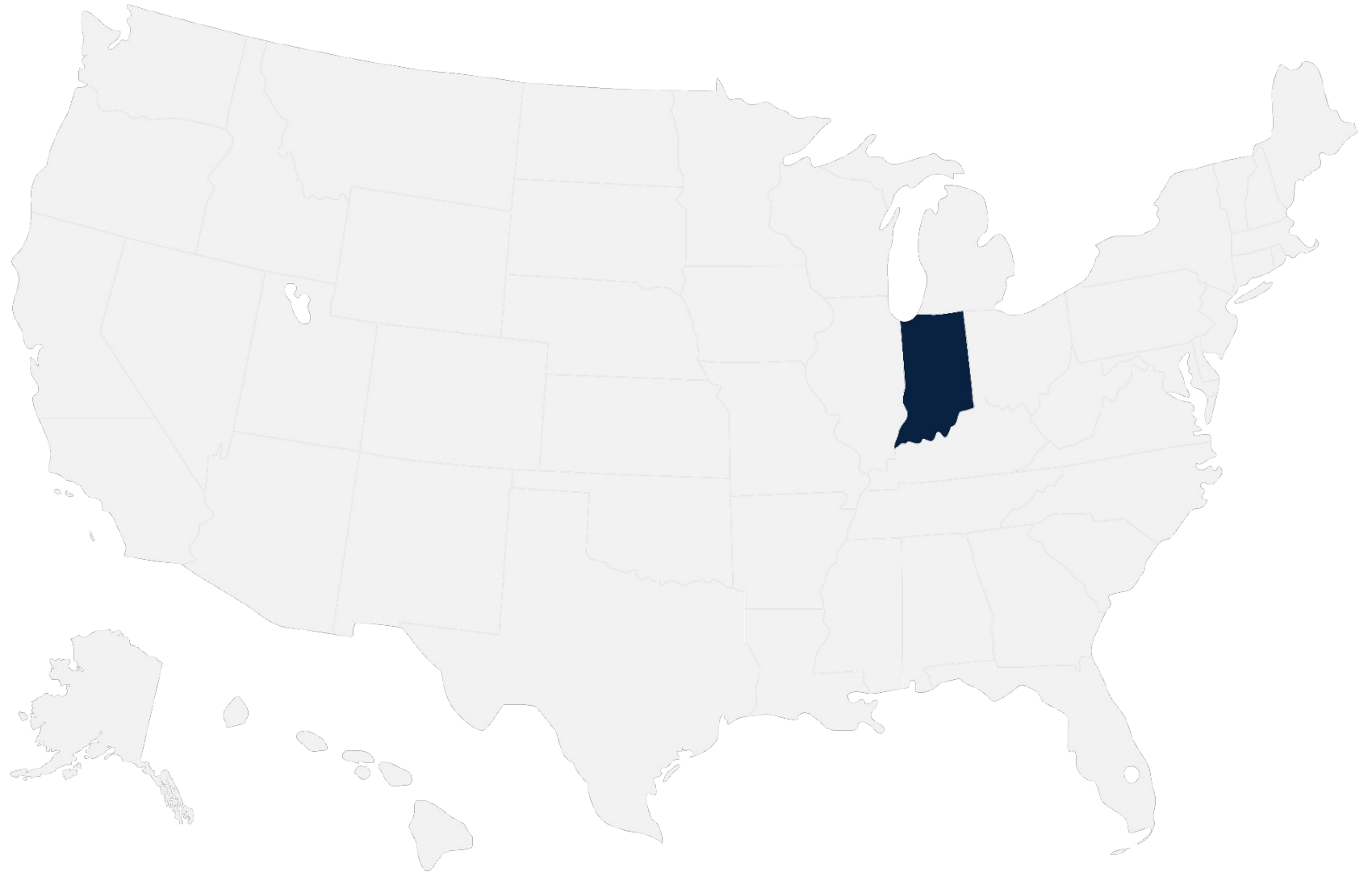
# Territory 9



**Emily Bruning**

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- **Indiana**



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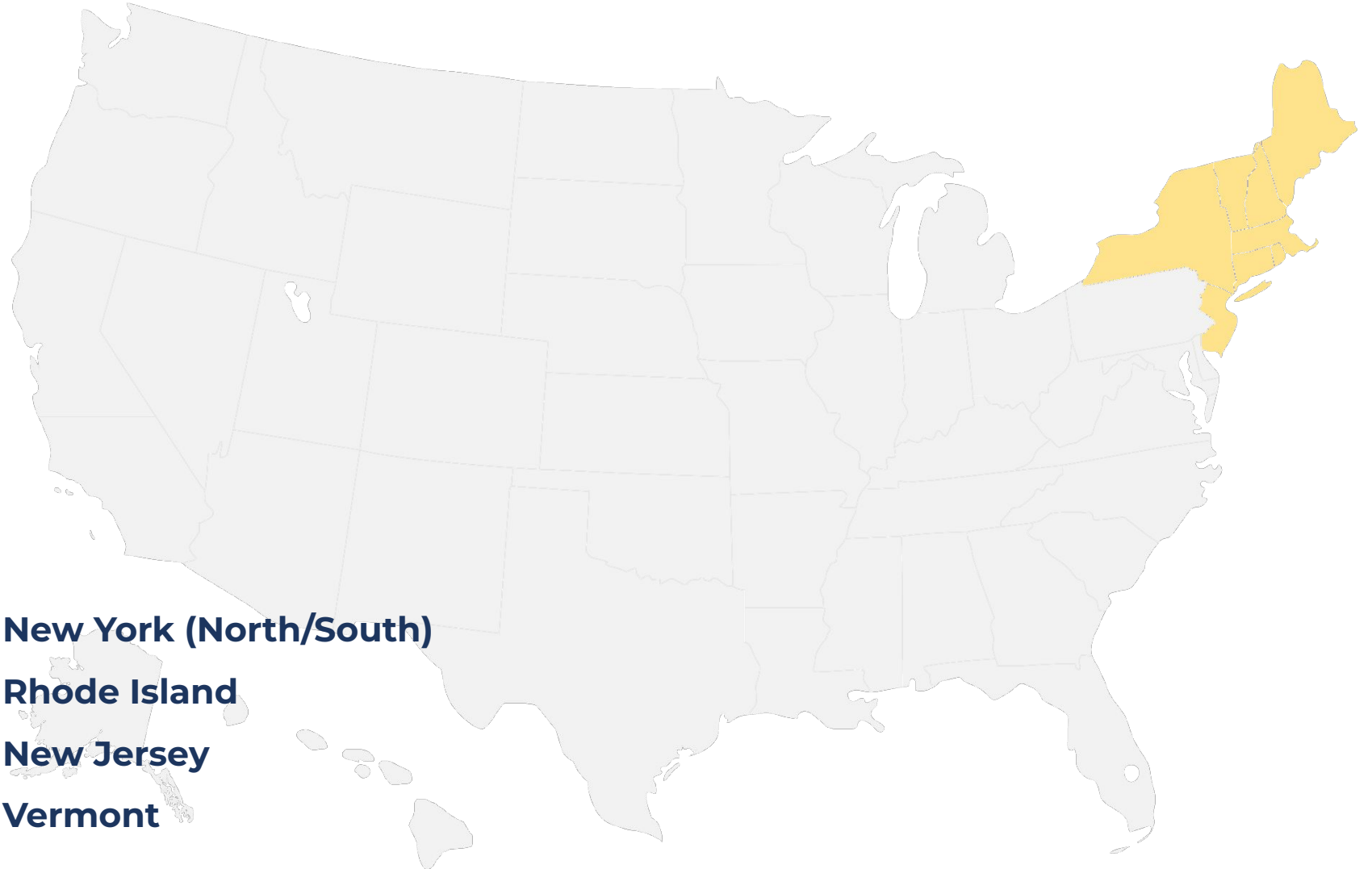
# Territory 10



**Alicia Lynn**

[alicia\\_lynn@recf.org](mailto:alicia_lynn@recf.org)

- **Connecticut**
- **Maine**
- **Massachusetts**
- **New Hampshire**
- **New York (North/South)**
- **Rhode Island**
- **New Jersey**
- **Vermont**



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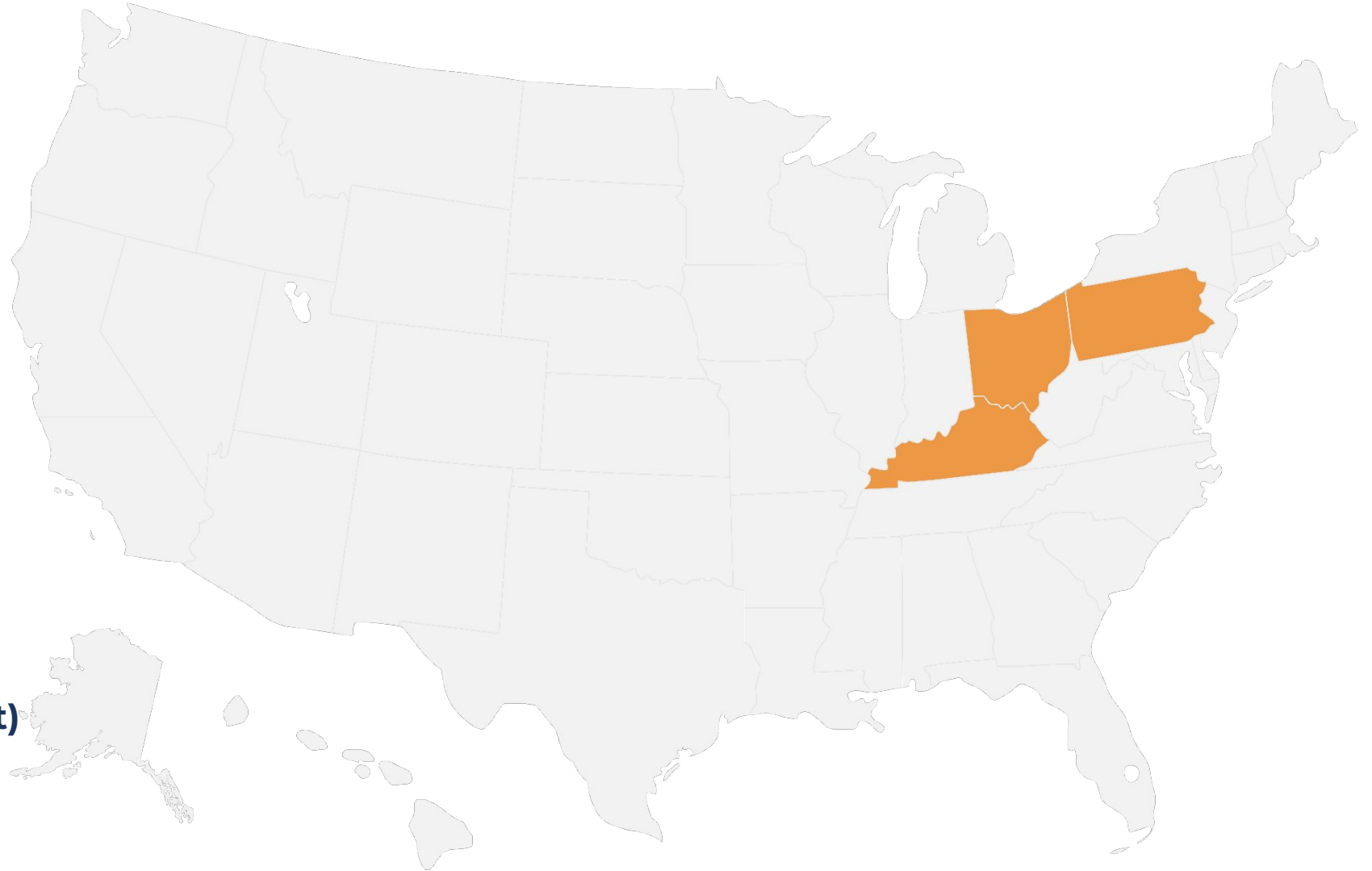
# Territory 11



**Pat Price**

pat\_price@recf.org

- **Kentucky**
- **Ohio**
- **Pennsylvania (East/West)**





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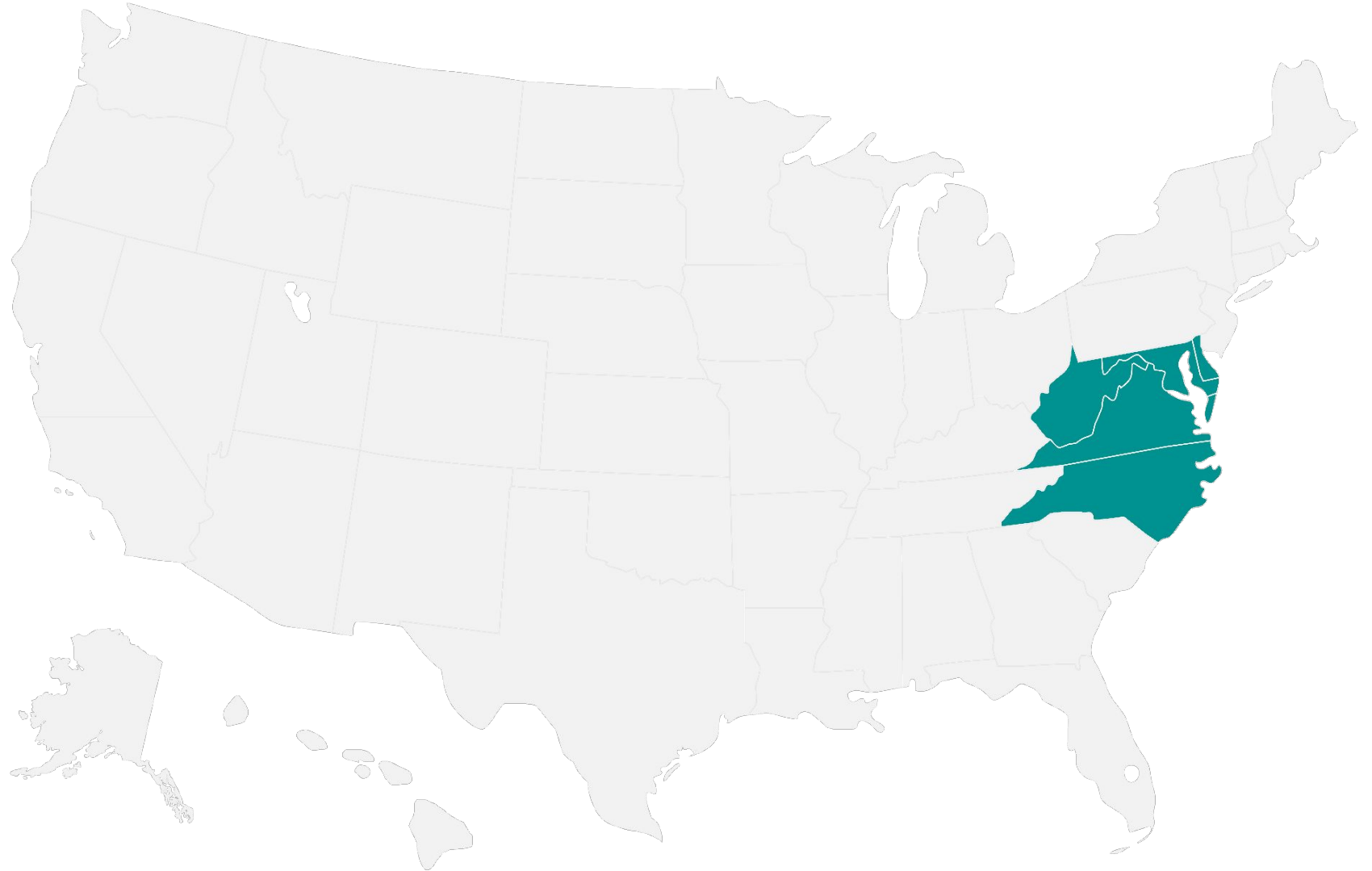
# Territory 12



**Ryan Utzman**

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- **Delaware**
- **District of Columbia**
- **Maryland**
- **Virginia**
- **North Carolina**
- **West Virginia**



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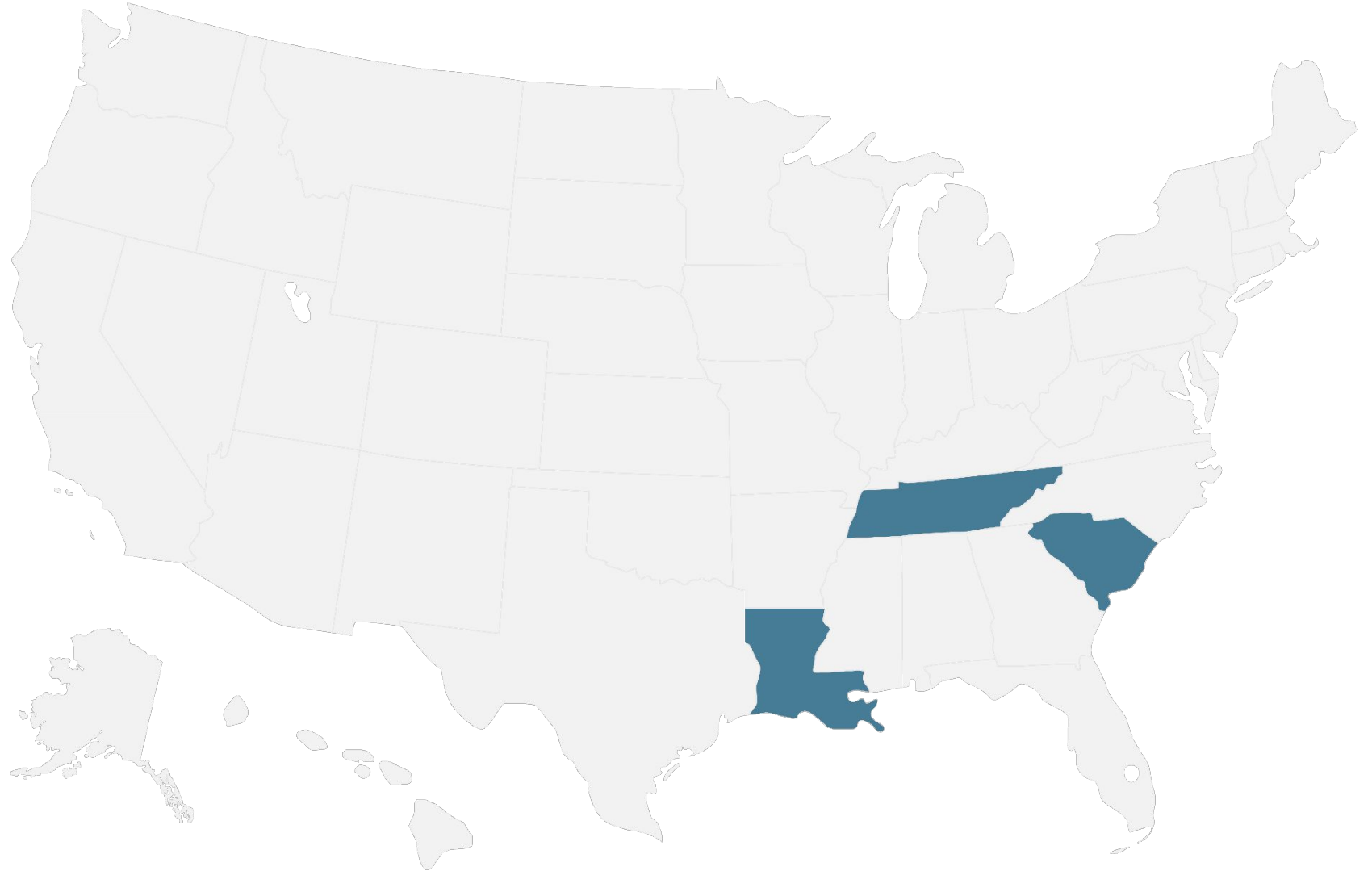
# Territory 13



**Leslie Cruse**

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- **Louisiana**
- **Tennessee**
- **South Carolina**



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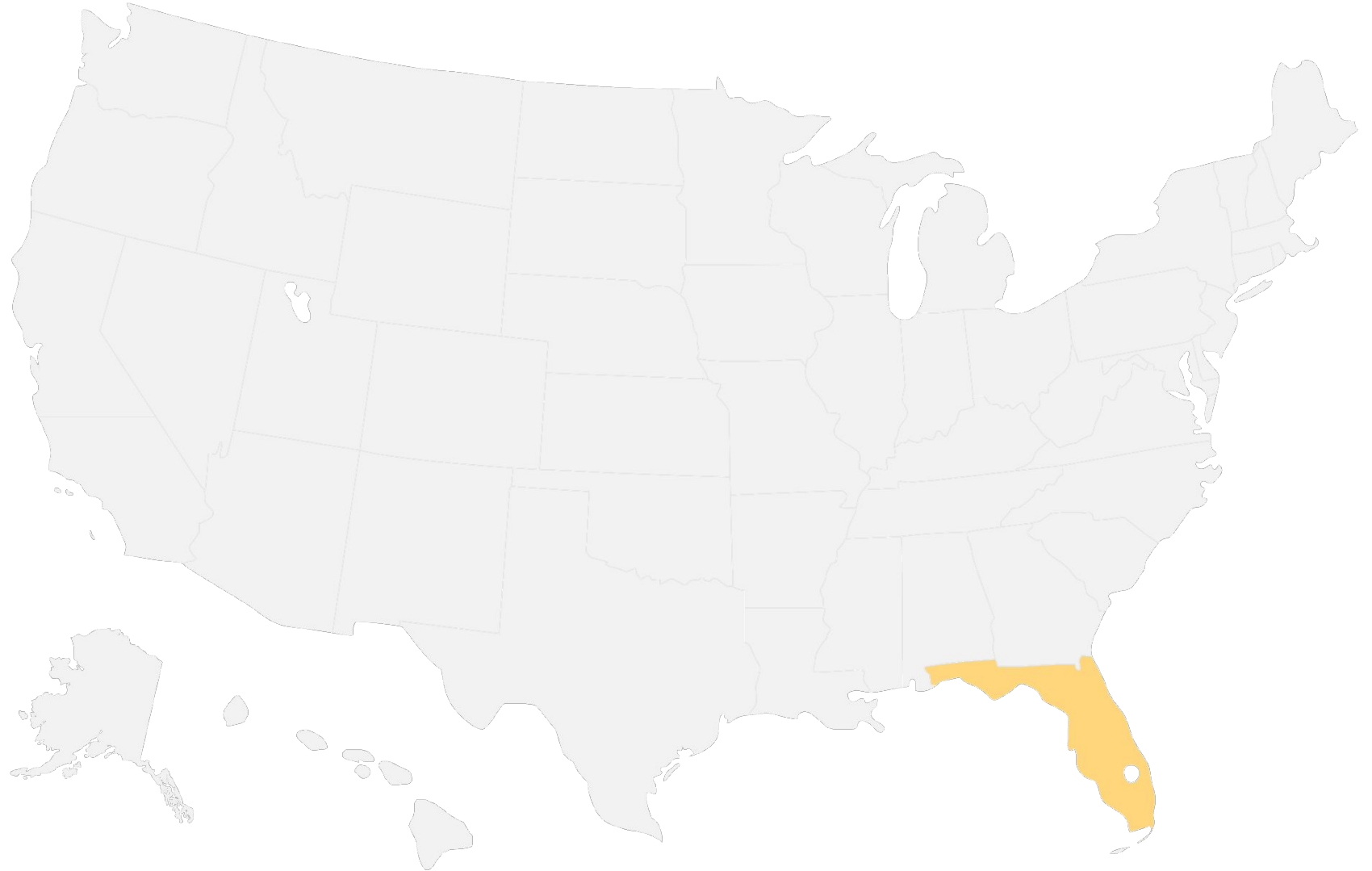
# Territory 14



**Ulrika Peroni**

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- **Florida**



REC Foundation

# International Regional Support Team



CANADA

**Richard Seniuk**

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MEXICO,  
CENTRAL/SOUTH  
AMERICA, CARIBBEAN

**Isaac Perez**

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# International Regional Support Team



EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST,  
AND AFRICA

**Paul McKnight**

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EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST,  
AND AFRICA

**Melissa Butterworth**

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IRELAND

**Anthony Bayler**

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REC Foundation

# International Regional Support Team



**AUSTRALIA,  
NEW ZEALAND**

**Lucien Bianchi**

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**ASIA PACIFIC**

**William Law**

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**ASIA PACIFIC**

**Hung Vu**

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REC Foundation

# International Regional Support Team



CHINA

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CHINA

**Jason Kang**

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CHINA

**Torres Wang**

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# 2025-2026 Season Updates



ROBOTICS EDUCATION &  
COMPETITION FOUNDATION

# SUMMIT

| VEX ROBOTICS PROGRAMS |





# 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.**



# WHY ROBOTICS?

92%

**of students** that participated in RECF programs are **more likely to take advanced STEM** courses in high school or college.<sup>1</sup>

97%

**of students** showed **more persistence and patience** than their peers.<sup>2</sup>

96%

**of students** showed the **desire to collaborate** with their peers.<sup>2</sup>

93%

**of students** demonstrated a **positive work ethic**<sup>2</sup>

83%

**of students** said they were interested in **taking engineering courses** in college.<sup>3</sup>



A photograph of three students, two girls and one boy, working on a VEX robot. They are wearing sweatshirts that say "BELLS CROSSING ROBOTICS TEAM". The robot is a complex assembly of metal beams, gears, and a motor. The background is blurred, showing other people and structures.

# Fee Structure

- Fee Structure
  - \$200 per team in 2025-2026
  - Fee Waiver - same as previous season, funding is limited
- Payments - Beginning in the 25/26 competition season, teams with unpaid purchase orders or unpaid event registrations that are 90 days past due will not be able to register for events.



A photograph of three students, two girls and one boy, working on a VEX robot. They are wearing sweatshirts that say "BELLS CROSSING ROBOTICS TEAM". The robot is a complex assembly of metal beams, gears, and sensors. The background is blurred, showing other people and structures.

# Fee Structure

- Team Registration Improvements
  - School/non-profit uploads proof, RSM verifies
    - If you do not have proof when you register, you can still complete registration, but must upload proof before being able to register for events.
    - Encouraging eligible organizations to proactively have that documentation before registering
    - Rationale: new event types, liability reasons, relationships
  - Future rostering system (TBD)
  - Breakout Session #4 or #8 in Room 229

# Your Robotics Registration

## COST BREAKDOWN

### Service & Support 35%

- In-depth financial transaction support (invoicing, background checks, grant processing, etc.)
- Centralized, regional, & local RECF customer support teams
- Community Advisory Boards
- Alumni network
- RECF coach, team, and event support

### Events & Technology 20%

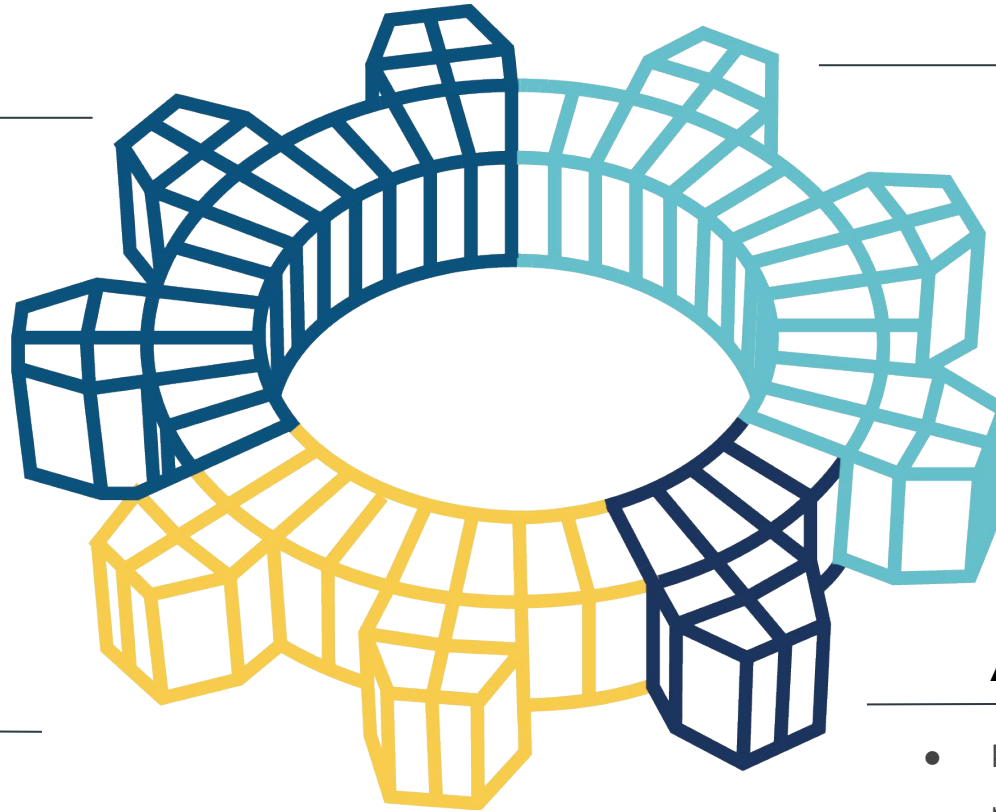
- Game Design Committees
- Event technology (Robot Events, Tournament Manager)
- Event promotion & marketing support (banners, trophies, etc.)

### Resources & Training 35%

- Robust RECF Library
- Judge, Event Partner, Coach, Head Referee & Volunteer certifications
- Event Partner Summit & Coaches training series
- Coach Academy
- Virtual Town Halls
- Online Challenges
- Season Welcome Kit

### Advocacy & Accessibility 10%

- Robotics & STEM education advocacy at state & national level for increased funding
- Ongoing legislation research & awareness
- Corporate/federal/state grant opportunities & management
- Accessibility support & resources



# Welcome Kits



## VIQRC Welcome Kit (SKU 228-7511)

- (1) VIQRC QR Code and Link
- (1) VEX IQ Engineering Notebook (5-pack)
- (1) VIQRC Blank Team Number Plate (2-pack)
- (1) VEX IQ Sammy
- (1) Game Piece 1
- (1) Game Piece 2
- Only for 1st team in an organization



## V5RC Welcome Kit (SKU 276-7505)

- (1) V5RC QR Code and Link
- (1) Engineering Notebook
- (1) VRC License Plate Pack
- (1) VEX IQ Sammy
- (1) Game Piece
- Only for 1st team in an organization



A photograph of several students at a VEX Robotics event. They are standing behind a checkered barrier, looking at a VEX robot on the table. One student is holding a remote control. The background shows other students and event signage.

# Event Updates

- Encourage Event Partners to know when game manual updates will take place
- Events with Divisions - RSM verification of awards
- Checkbox for Divisional events
- Event Partner Discounts - TBD
  - Have not secured funding for these yet



# Event Updates

## **Proposed:**

- “Event Policies” tab for event specific rules - EPs can create this manually already
- Adding a checkbox acknowledging the refund policy when registering for events
- Clarifying the payment deadline
- Fixing the “start over” button when trying to pay
- Skills opportunities for VEX U Robotics Competition and VEX AI Robotics Competition Teams checkbox
- Considering a cap on high school Signature Events in 2026-2027



A photograph of several students at a VEX competition. They are standing behind a table with a black and white checkered border, looking at their robots. One student in the foreground is wearing a black hoodie with 'INDIANE 1357X' on it and is holding a remote control. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and equipment.

# Event Support

- Reporting issues to Event Partner VEX Forum vs Freshchat vs Regional Support Manager
  - Event Partner VEX Forum
    - Repeated tech bugs for the developers/DWAB to investigate further, global, big picture
  - Freshchat
    - Support at an event, real-time, quick fixes, **technology** specific
  - Regional Support Manager
    - Administrative issues with RobotEvents, **operational/event management** specific (judging, cycle times, volunteers, awards, CoC, teams added to RE, etc)



# Event Support

- Event Region Championships/Signature Event Best Practices
  - Keep parents/individuals with connections outside of the judging room
  - Coaches of teams participating should never be in a judging room at an event their team is participating in (applies to all events).
  - Balance outside vs local Key Volunteers
    - Exploring Assistant Judge Advisor position
  - Planning Committees
  - Encouraging Seniors to sign up for the Alumni Association at ERCs/SEs and local events
    - Developing a plan to send tassels to EPs



A background image showing a group of students at a robotics event. In the center, a student wears a white fedora. To the right, a student's shirt has 'KUWAIT' and 'International English School' visible. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple and blue gradient.

# RobotEvents Updates

- Notification of Items in Cart
- Acknowledgement of Team Registration No Refund/Not Transferable Policy
- Coach Phone Number Labels (Organizational Phone Number and Cell Phone Number)
- Tournament Manager team reports sorting by team number
- Locking down the ability to change event regions

A background image showing a group of students at a robotics competition. They are gathered around a table with a black and white checkered border, looking at and working on various robotic devices. One student in the foreground is wearing a dark hoodie with 'ADIAN3E' printed on it and is holding a small electronic component. Other students in the background are also focused on their work.

# Signature Event Updates

## **Signature Event** Early Bird Changes

- Feedback from Community regarding the existing system (checking how many registered team lists a team appears on when determining if a team can register during an Early Bird period):
  - Early season events are hard to fill as teams are saving their 3 events for later in the season
  - Many teams would have attended earlier season events if there was no perceived “penalty” for it
  - Event Partners need events to fill due to costs



A background image showing a group of students at a robotics competition. They are gathered around a table with a black and white checkered border, looking at and working on various robotic devices. One student in the foreground is wearing a dark hoodie with 'ADIAN3E' printed on it and is holding a small electronic component. Other students in the background are also focused on their work.

# Signature Event Updates

## Signature Event Early Bird Changes:

- Each team starts the season with three (3) opportunities to register during the Signature Event Early-Bird period. (Tokens)
- An opportunity is taken away each time the team registers for a Signature Event during the Signature Event Early-Bird period.
- If a team registers during the Standard Registration period, a token is **not** taken away.
- A Signature Event Early-Bird opportunity is **not** taken away if a team registers for a tournament hosted by their school or organization (where the team's coach is the Event Partner).

A photograph of several students at a robotics competition. They are standing behind a checkered barrier, looking at their robots. One student in the foreground is wearing a black hoodie with 'ADIANZE' and '1357X' printed on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and event structures.

# Signature Event Updates

**Signature Event** Early Bird FAQs (will be posted to the REC Library)

- What if a team registers during the Early Bird, then backs out? Does it still count as an Early Bird use?
  - Yes
- How does Team Swapping work with the Signature Event Token System?
  - Original team uses a token, and swapped in team is unaffected.
    - **This policy is still being debated and may be updated.**



A photograph of several students at a robotics competition. They are standing behind a checkered barrier, looking at their robots. One student in the foreground is wearing a black hoodie with 'ADIAN3E' and '1357X' printed on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and event equipment.

# Signature Event Updates

## **Signature Event** Early Bird FAQs (will be posted to the REC Library)

- If I am hosting a Signature Event and register during that event's Early Bird period, does it take a token away?
  - No
- What happens when a team comes into the event from the waitlist?
  - If they are registered from the waitlist, it would consume a token only if the action is performed within the Signature Event Early Bird period (not based on when they were added to the waitlist).

A background image showing a group of students at a robotics competition. They are standing behind a checkered barrier, looking at their robots and equipment. One student in the foreground is wearing a black hoodie with 'ADIAN3E' and '1357X' printed on it. The image has a blue and purple color overlay.

# Signature Event Updates

**Signature Event** Fields (will be posted to the REC Library)

- Team swapping for Signature Events - 4 weeks
- Any lighting/special effects used must be consistent across all Competition fields and cannot interfere with match play.
  - Dark venues must use white lighting during match play on competition fields
  - Applies to all events as well



A photograph of several students at a robotics competition. They are standing behind a white barrier with a black and white checkered pattern. In the foreground, there are two LEGO Mindstorms robots on a table. The students are wearing hoodies, some with 'ADIANCE' printed on them. One student is holding a remote control. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and equipment.

# Signature Event Updates

**Signature Event** Fields (will be posted to the REC Library)

- **NEW\*** Event Partners are required to provide the appropriate total number of fields based on the event size, but they have the flexibility to adjust the allocation between skills and practice fields as needed. While the overall field count must still meet the minimum requirements outlined, Event Partners can shift the balance between skills and practice fields depending on scheduling, venue space, or the needs of participating teams. It is the Event Partner's responsibility to ensure that all teams have adequate opportunities for both practice and skills runs throughout the event.

# Running Skills at Events

## VEX U and VEX AI Robotics Competitions

- > Great source of volunteers
- > Can run during lunch/during/after an event
- > Physical inspection sheet signed by inspector
- > Physical scoresheet signed by referee
- > Scan and submit to RSM after the event

Work with Regional Support Managers (RSM) to identify these teams in your region that may want to run skills at your event.



# Policy Updates

## Organizational Policy

- If teams of the same grade level and program are at the same address, you are the same organization
- If a coach leaves, the number belongs to the organization
- The Primary Coach has ultimate decision-making authority regarding all team matters.



## Commitment to Event Excellence

- Allow official sponsors/partners of the RECF to set up a booth and/or display at any event. A request must be made at least 30 days in advance of the event to the Regional Support Manager, who will facilitate the introduction. The sponsor/partner must abide by venue rules and regulations.
- Event Partners, Head Referees, and Judge Advisors may not fill more than one of those roles at the same event.
- Event must not have access to or promote products that are inappropriate for children.

# Student Centered Updates (24/25)

- Modified the award chart for VEX IQ Robotics Competition by moving more judged awards up (Innovate, Create)
- Made the Innovate Award required at all events with judging.
- Modified judging rubrics to focus more on originality and creativity to encourage the use of the design process.
- Made the Engineering Notebook and an interview is required to win any judged award (exceptions: Sportsmanship, Judges, Inspire, and Energy Awards).
- Encouraged more “Rookie” or “Beginner” level events and/or more invitational events for teams that have not registered for events.



# Student Centered Updates (24/25)

- No VEX IQ fields in pits at the VEX Robotics World Championship
  - Friendly atmosphere in the pit areas
  - Students strategizing with students
  - Students smiling, and just “being kids”
  - Students talking about where they are from and other “kid” things
  - Students didn’t seem as stressed when going through the line
  - Reduced adults “hovering” over the fields
  - Students said (related to the lines):
    - “my coach says these lines are bad, this is nothing, Disney lines are far worse”
    - “this is not bad at all”
    - **“this gets us away from our coach”**
  - Students giving fist bumps/high-fives to others as they snaked through the lines

# Competition Structure Changes (25/26)



## Event Format Classifications

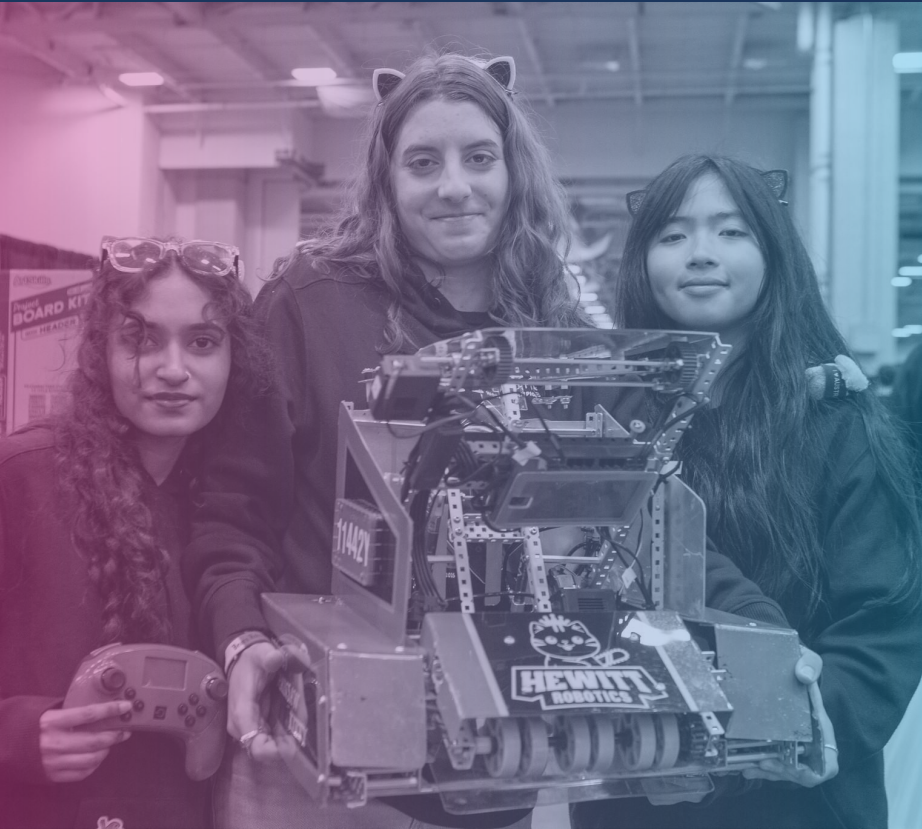
- Open Tournament
- School-Based Tournament **(new)**
- Conference Tournament **(new)**
- Invitational Tournament
- Leagues
- Skills Only
- Scrimmage

## Hybrid ERC

- Combines parts of a grade level split tournament with parts of a blended event.
- Both grade levels will go through qualification rounds together, but Judging, skills, and elimination matches will all be conducted separately according to their respective grade level groups.



# Competition Structure Changes (25/26)



## Conference Model Beta Test

- Direct path to the VEX Robotics World Championship for large school-based organizations
- 4 organizations selected for pilot
  - 1-year beta test
  - VEX IQ Robotics Competition only
  - Conference Tournaments that qualify to a Conference Championship
- Breakout Session #1, #4, #5, or #7 in Room 226

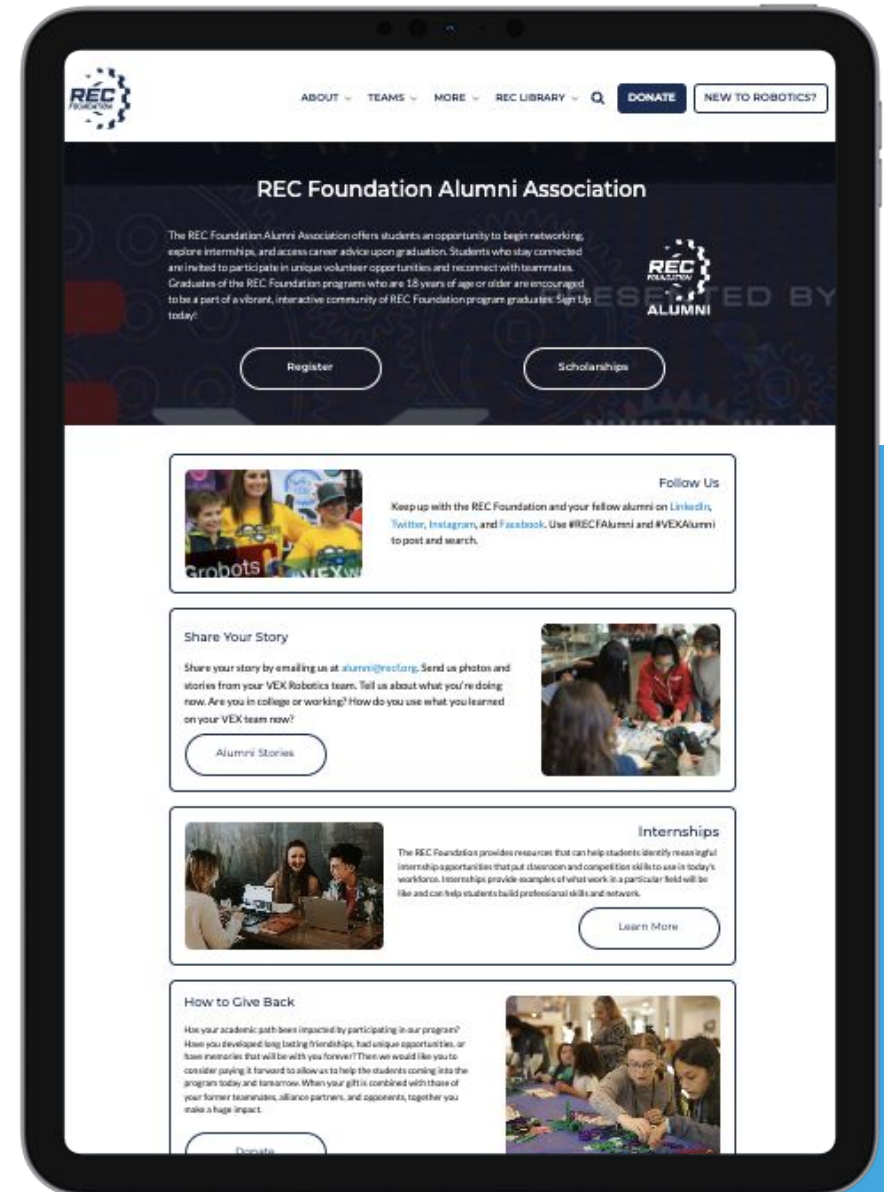
# Alumni Association

The REC Foundation Alumni Association offers students an opportunity to begin networking, explore internships, and access career advice upon graduation. Students who stay connected are invited to participate in unique volunteer opportunities and reconnect with teammates.

Graduates of the REC Foundation programs who are 18 years of age or older are encouraged to be a part of a vibrant, interactive community of REC Foundation program graduates.

Breakout Session #3 or #7 in Room 227

LEARN MORE







**IRHS**  
INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS HONOR SOCIETY

# International Robotics Honor Society

Students with exceptional academic standing have the opportunity to apply for membership in a local chapter of the International Robotics Honor Society to earn nationally recognized graduation honors for their participation in a host of high school robotics competitions.

Breakout Session #3 or #7 in Room 227

[LEARN MORE](#)





### **Who Can Participate:**

Open to students in elementary, middle, high school, and college offered for VEX IQ Robotics Competition, VEX V5 Robotics Competition, VEX U Robotics Competition, and VEX AI Robotics Competition

### **What They Are:**

Remote, STEM-based challenges that expand engagement, showcase diverse skills, and offer recognition through three seasonal cycles.

### **Why Participate:**

- Earn trophies, prizes, and Worlds spots (Cycle 3)
- Showcase team talent & creativity
- Build portfolios for college, careers, and scholarships

### **Challenge Types:**

- Cycle 1: Inspire – Creativity, Leadership, Team Identity
  - Cycle 2: Innovate – Technical Skills, Design Thinking
  - Cycle 3: Impact – Community, Advocacy, Real-World Solutions
- 



### **Learn More:**

Breakout Session #2 or #6 in Room 227



# Volunteer Training and Certifications

- Smaller “core” certifications, with various “add-ons” - similar to teaching endorsements.
- Once you complete a course, it will be applied across all certification programs.
- Badges are earned for each course, and Certificates are available once a Certification Program is complete!
- Breakout Session #4 or #8 in Room 227

## TRAINING WEBSITE

[training.recf.org](https://training.recf.org)

## MOODLE WORKPLACE APP

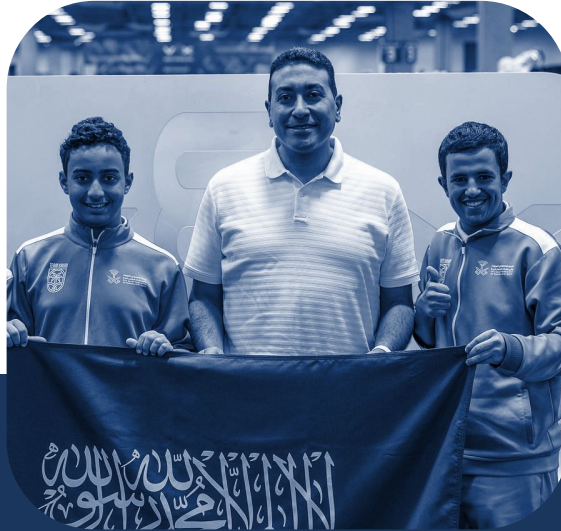
[Google Play Store for Android](#) / [App Store for IOS](#)



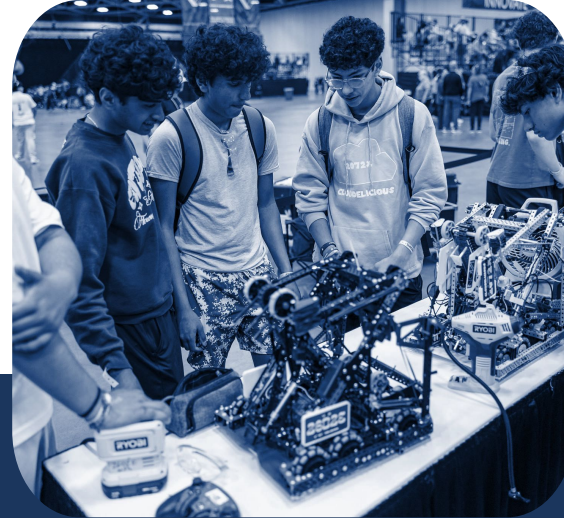
# Advisory Boards



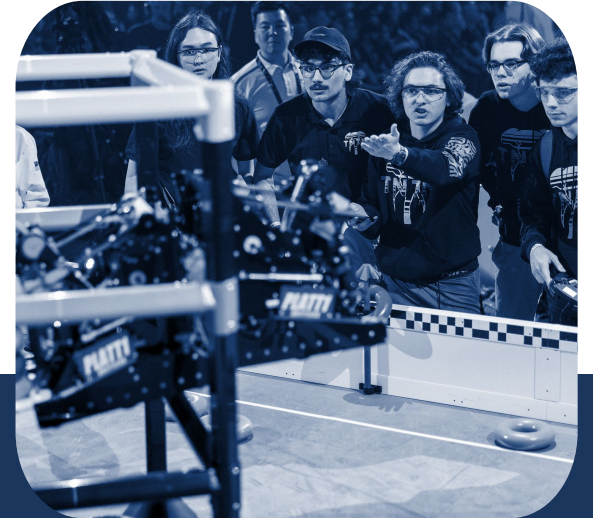
**EVENT PARTNER**



**COACH**



**STUDENT**



**VEX U**





# Workforce Readiness

Workforce readiness means having students prepared to enter the workforce with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes ready to engage in activities that will be required for the workplace.

Workplace readiness skills are important because they ensure workers have the basic academic, critical thinking, and personal skills necessary to maintain employment. Academic skills such as reading, writing, basic math, and communication skills are essential for optimal job performance.

FAC/Workcell Breakout Session #3, #4, #7, #8 in Room 226



**By the end of 2030, an estimated **3.85 million** additional jobs requiring proficiency in technical fields will be created in the U.S.**

Of those, 1.4 million jobs risk going unfilled unless we can expand the pipeline for workers in fields such as skilled technicians, engineering, and computer science.

*[\\*SIA/Oxford Economics, 2023](#)*



*Students learn valuable workforce skills in TESLA sponsored robotics lab*



# Workforce Projections

The median annual wage for all STEM occupations is

**\$101,650**

compared with

**\$46,680**

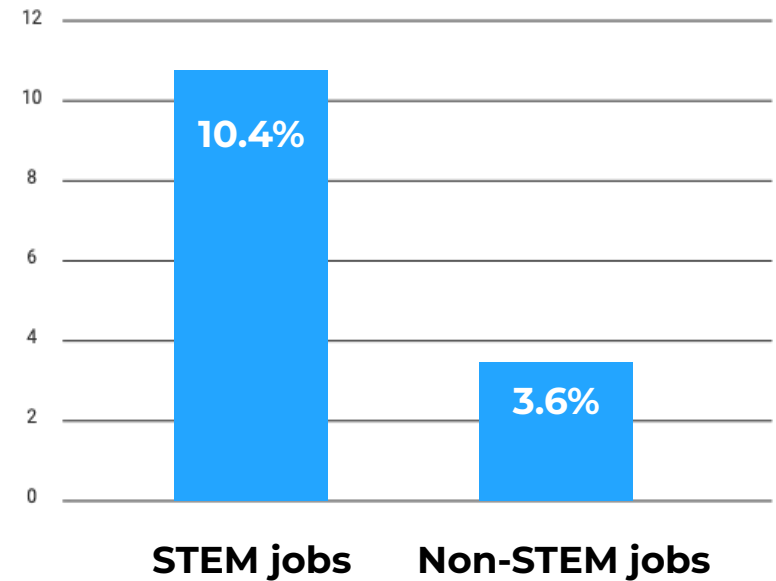
for non-STEM jobs.

*[\\*Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)*



*Students learn valuable workforce skills and receive mentorship in TESLA sponsored robotics lab*

## 2022 - 2032 STEM Job Growth



*[\\*Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)*

# Industry Certifications

The REC Foundation provides two industry certifications (Pre-Engineering and Robotics) for schools, students in engineering-related programs, and robotics clubs. These certifications were designed by a team of accomplished professionals, including engineers, college professors, and high school teachers.

The REC Foundation Certifications Program is a response to a global need for more students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Breakout Session #1 or #5 in Room 227

[LEARN MORE](#)





## UPCOMING TRAININGS



### **Coach Training**

Welcome to the VEX Robotics Season

When: August 7th @ 6:00 PM Central Time

Where: Virtual - Register via Robot Events

### **Event Partner Training**

Do's and Don'ts

When: August 21st @ 6:00 PM Central Time

Where: Virtual - Register via Robot Events

### **Coach Academy**

When: New courses added throughout the season  
and weekly office hours available

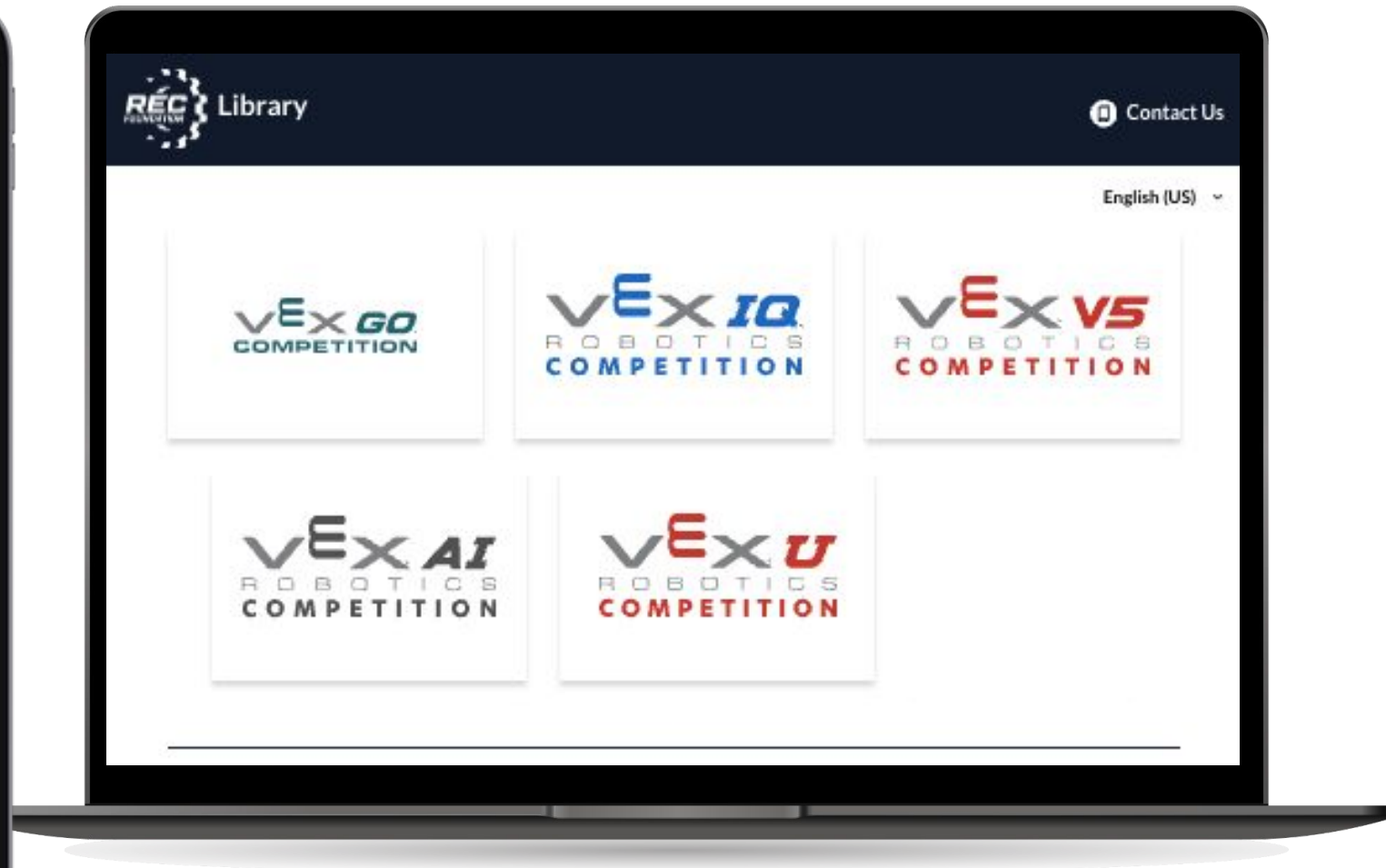
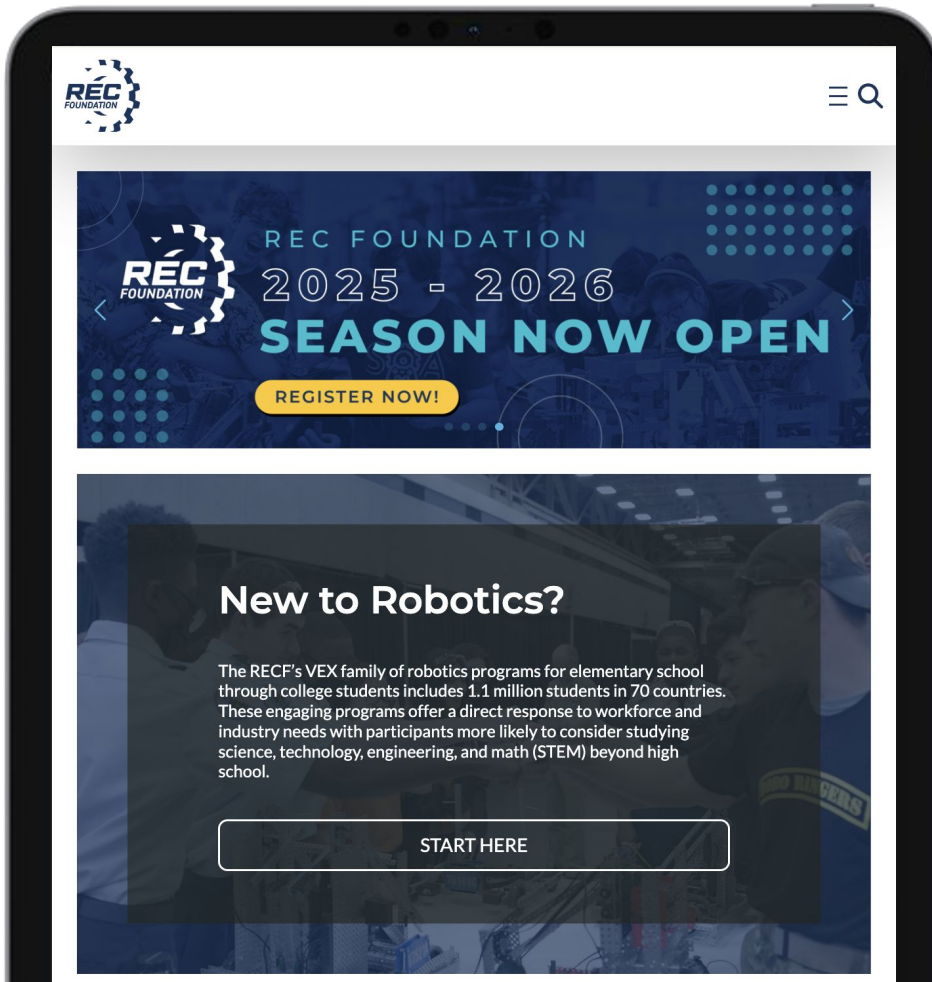
Where: [training.recf.org](https://training.recf.org)



# Resources

RECF WEBSITE

RECF LIBRARY



# Resources

VEX ROBOTICS WEBSITE

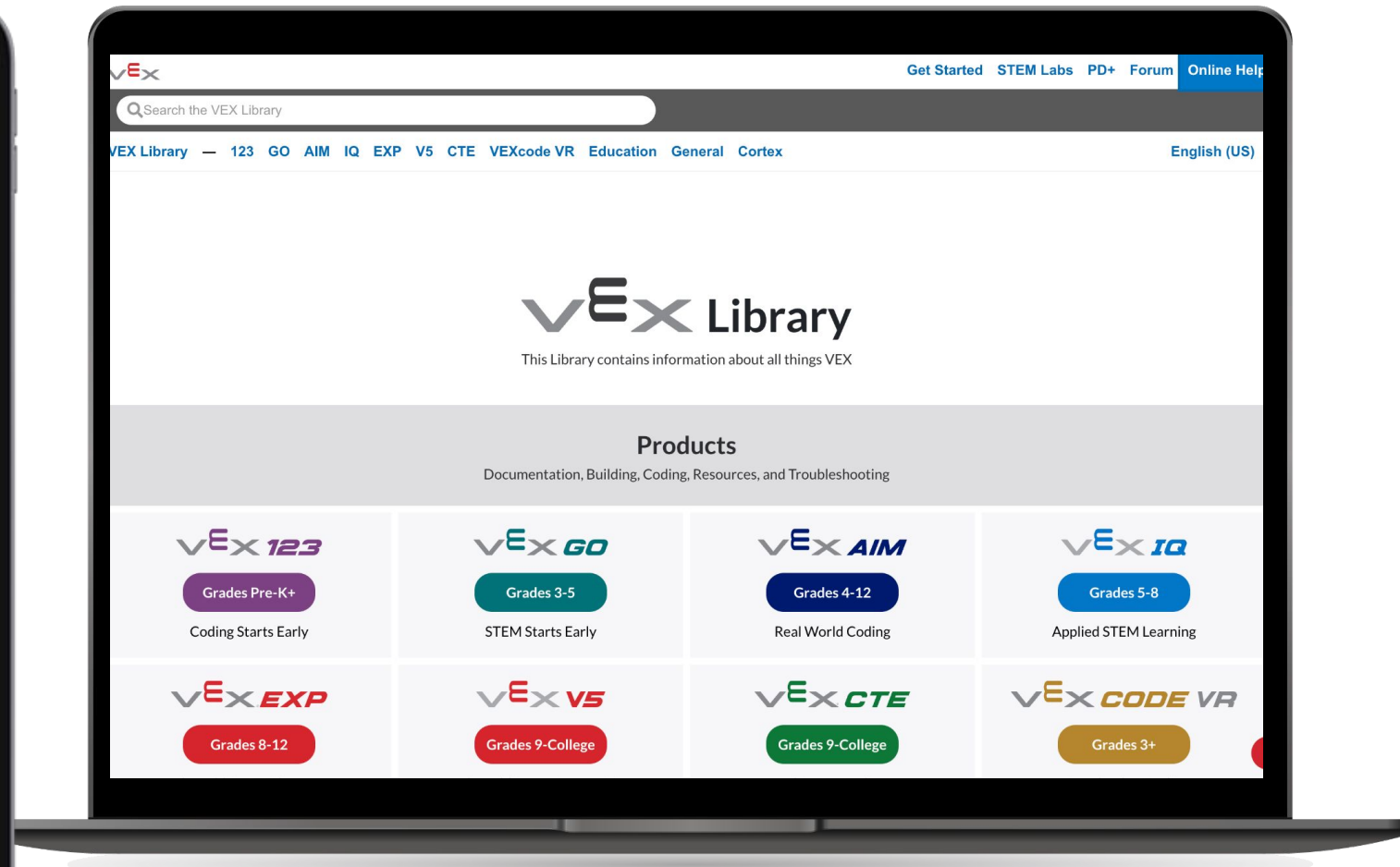


General Session: Accessibility, VEXcode Improvements, VEX Education Improvements

Breakout Session #5, #6, #7, and #8 in Room 222

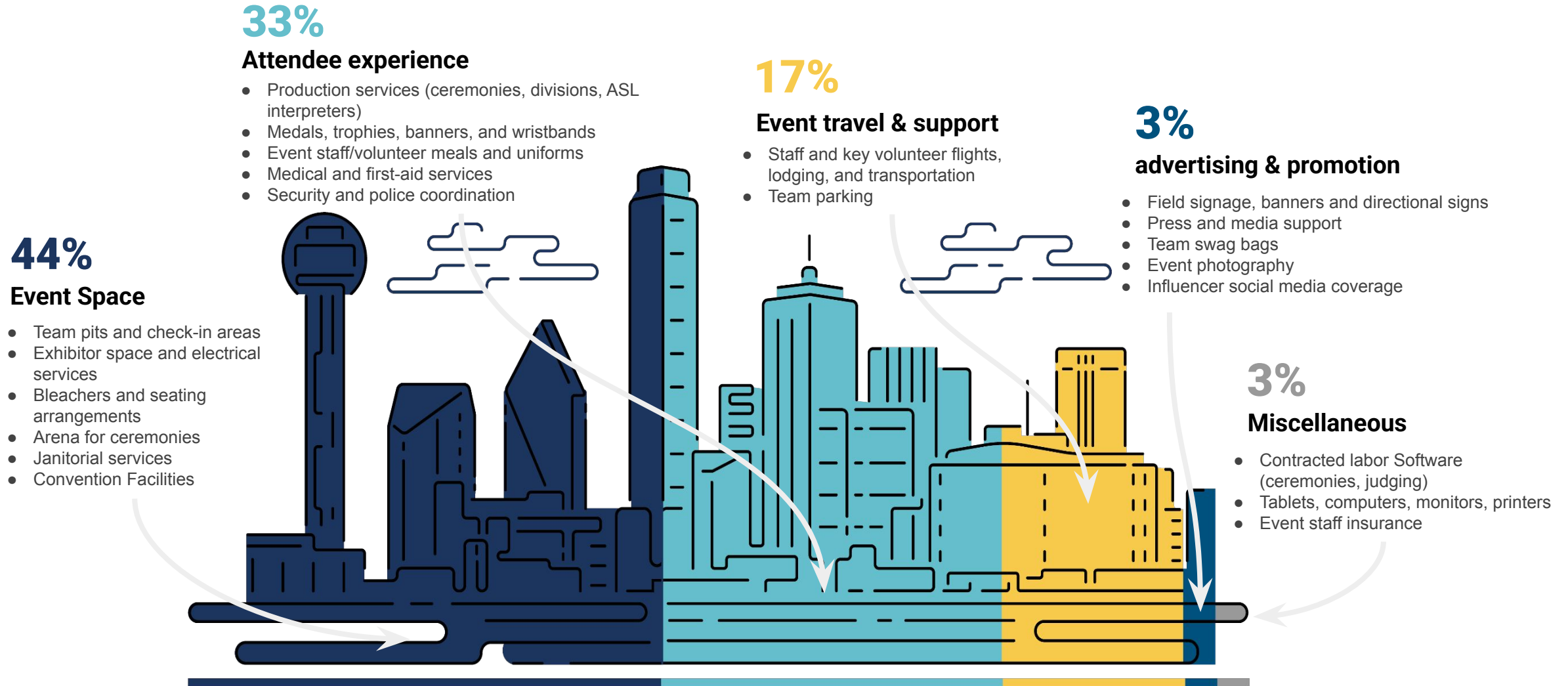
- Competition in the Classroom STEM Labs w/ Educator Q&A (5/6)
- Virtual Skills and Virtual Driver Practice w/ Software Q&A (7/8)

VEX ROBOTICS KNOWLEDGE BASE



# 2025 VEX Robotics World Championship - Dallas

## COST BREAKDOWN





2026

# VEX Robotics World Championship (Proposed)

APRIL  
**21-24** High School VEX V5 Robotics  
Competition (4 day)

APRIL  
**25-27** Middle School VEX V5 Robotics  
Competition, VEX U Robotics  
Competition (3 day) VEX AIR (TBD)

APRIL  
**28-30** Middle and Elementary School  
VEX IQ Robotics Competition (3 day)

## April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

### Waitlist Update:

- Only teams that have qualified for an ERC can be pulled
  - Potential block on RobotEvents.com from adding teams that do not meet this criteria (proposed)
- Schedule of Waitlist invites will be posted

# 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.

### Address

1519 Interstate 30 West  
Greenville, Texas 75402

### Phone & Email

903 401 8088  
[support@recf.org](mailto:support@recf.org)

[Resources](#)



ROBOTICS EDUCATION &  
COMPETITION FOUNDATION

**SUMMIT**

VEX ROBOTICS PROGRAMS