



National Robotics League
Colorado

A S.T.E.M. PROGRAM

Fundraising Flyer for Teams to Help Fundraise

Start with Easy Wins

Restaurant Give-Back Nights

Partner with restaurants that donate a percentage of each sale back to your team. These are simple to run and work great when students help promote the event.

School Foundation Support

Check whether your school has an education foundation or charitable arm. They often fund student organizations, STEM programs, and equipment needs.

Haas Foundation Grants

1. The Gene Haas Foundation provides grants for Student Competition Teams.

Apply here: https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/ghf_first_sae_competitions

→ **Important:** Reference *NTMA* and the *National Robotics League* in your application.

2. If your school has CNC machines, you can apply for a Post Secondary Scholarship here: <https://www.ghaasfoundation.org/apply-now>.

Proven Fundraising Strategies from Other Teams

1. Create a Sponsorship Packet

Show potential supporters:

- Last year's robot designs
- What your team is learning (CAD, machining, wiring, teamwork, problem-solving)
- How their support helps build the local manufacturing workforce

This helps sponsors *see the impact* of investing in your team.

Hand them out to local businesses such as: machine shops, manufacturing companies, engineering firms, tooling & industrial supply companies, suppliers (welding, metalworking & fabrication suppliers), local construction or trades companies, tech & software companies (CAD/3D printing/automation).

Consider these community-focused businesses: banks, credit unions & financial institutions, foundations & charitable organizations that specifically fund: STEM, career & technical education, youth programs, workforce development.

Sponsorship Packet Template - Ideas to include in your sponsorship packet.

- "About the Team / Mission & Vision" — who you are, what you stand for, why robotics / manufacturing education matters.
- Student Impact & Skills Gained — CAD/CAM, machining, teamwork, problem solving, communication, outreach, etc.
- Budget or Expense Overview — approximate cost for materials, competitions, travel, outreach, tools. Helps sponsors understand what their money will be used for.
- Sponsorship / Donation Options — tiers (bronze, silver, gold, platinum or similar), plus in-kind/material giving, mentorship, volunteer time, etc.
- Sponsor Benefits / What Sponsors Get — logo placement (robot, website, banners, shirts), team updates / thank-you letters, social media recognition, invites to demo days or shop tours, outreach exposure, etc.
- Clear Call to Action — how to donate (check, online payment, in-kind), contact info, W-9 / tax-exempt information if applicable.
- Professional, Polished Look — easy-to-read layout, team photos or robot photos, clear headers, branding. Makes a good impression.

Sample sponsorship levels with benefits:

Premier Sponsor: \$1,000 or more

Includes – 24” multicolor advertising logo centered on the banner & on the arena skirt, a listing in the event program, maximum size logo on the team T-shirts, maximum size logo on the center of the robots.

Platinum Sponsor: \$750 or more

Includes – 18” multicolor advertising logo on the banner & on the arena skirt, a listing in the event program, ½ size logo on the team T-shirts, ½ size logo on the side of the robot.

Gold Sponsor: \$500 or more

Includes - 14” multicolor advertising logo on the banner & on the arena skirt, a listing in the event program, 1/3 size logo on the team T-shirts, 1/3 size logo on the back of the robot.

Silver Sponsor: \$250 or more

Includes – 10” single color logo on the banner & on the arena skirt, a listing in the event program, ¼ size logo on the team T-shirts.

Sponsor: \$150 or more

Includes – 8” single color logo on the banner, logo on the event program.

Supporter: \$50 or more

Includes – Name listing on the banner, listing in the event program

Friend: \$25 or more

Includes- Name listing in the event program.

2. Build a Simple Team Website

A website makes your team look professional and gives sponsors a place to learn more.

Include:

- Team photos
 - Past robot designs
 - Sponsorship levels
 - Contact information
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3. Form a Student Communications/Fundraising Committee

Choose a student to lead team communications.

Your committee can:

- Cold-call or email local machine shops
- Send sponsorship packets
- Post updates on social media
- Invite industry partners to visit your shop

Focus on businesses that use CNC machines or support manufacturing — they already understand the value of what you're learning.

4. Create a Booster Club (If Possible)

A tax-exempt booster club makes it easier for companies to donate because:

- Donations can be tax-deductible
- Businesses can support you through grants or matching-gift programs

This also helps build long-term support for your team.

5. Plan Team Fundraising Events

Ideas include:

- Spaghetti Dinners with raffles
- Volunteering at events where your hours earn donations
- Hosting mini-competitions or open shop nights

Students can lead the planning and promotion.

6. Request Material Donations

Many machine shops have leftover aluminum, titanium, or steel they are happy to donate. This can reduce your robot-building costs dramatically.

Tip: Always explain what material you need and how it supports the build.

7. Follow Up With Every Donor

This step is **critical**.

Send:

- Thank-you letters
- Photos of your robot in progress
- Short updates throughout the season
- Links to livestreams for NRL Colorado or NRL Nationals

Sponsors love being part of the journey — and great updates lead to repeat support.

How to Explain the Value to Sponsors

Businesses support robotics teams because:

- Students learn real machining, wiring, CAD, and manufacturing skills
- Teams create future machinists, engineers, and tech workers
- Businesses want to invest in their local workforce pipeline
- Sponsorship shows community involvement
- Teams promote sponsors at the competition and online