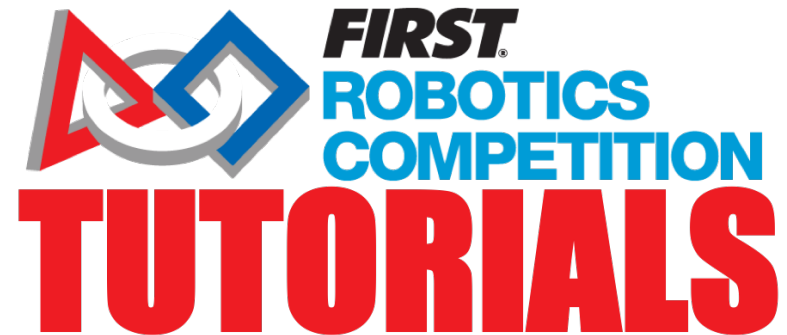# *Applying for Grants*

TEAM 8027

Why Grants?

- FIRST Robotics Competition is expensive

- Majority of teams need to seek out grants and sponsorships

- **[Rookie Tip]** Keep in mind that you may not be informed about some grants (e.g. NASA) until after the payment deadline. If this happens to you, just call FIRST Finance and let them know that you have applied and are waiting to hear back. They will work with you.

Rookie Grants

- **NASA Grant**
  - $6000 total
  - Must have a temporary or permanent team number
  - US Teams only
  - Required Letter of Support from school/organization
  - Required entrance and exit surveys to be completed by the students
  - Required Chairman's Essay even if not eligible for awards
  - There are several essay questions to answer about the team
  - https://frc-grants.arc.nasa.gov/rcs/directions.php

- **FIRST New Team Growth Grant**
  - $4000 in first year
  - $2000 in second year
  - If you receive a NASA Grant, you will not be eligible for this FIRST grant
  - FIRST sends teams email about this grant and you apply through a special page.
  - You will need to create a Business/Fundraising Plan

Sample Grant Questions

- Why are you considering entering a team in the 2020 FIRST Robotics Competition? What goals do you have for your team and participants and in the future?

- Describe the organization of your team and how the roles and responsibilities are shared between your students, faculty and community partners.

- …Outline the most significant sources of income and expenses your team anticipates for this year.

- Please identify the corporate or community partners/mentors who will assist and instruct the students…

- Please describe what will set your team apart from other teams competing in this year's FIRST Robotics Competition.

Other Grants

- NASA does have grants for second-year and veteran teams
  - https://frc-grants.arc.nasa.gov/rcs/directions.php
  - Teams applying for a second year NASA sponsorship must demonstrate at least $5,000 of existing corporate or community funding, and agree to mentor a rookie robotics team either directly or indirectly

- Collings Aerospace
  - https://www.rockwellcollins.com/Our-Company/Corporate-Responsibility/Community-Overview/FIRST/FIRST-Grants.aspx
  - Either must be mentored by an employee or in their region

- BAE Systems
  https://www.baesystems.com/en-us/our-company/about-us/bae-systems-inc/community-investment/first-robotics-grants

- Be sure to look at companies and organizations near you – GM, Uber, DoD

- Check for grants at companies where your team mentors, parents and volunteers work for

Key Tips

- Write down all the deadlines

- Make sure you are aware of all the requirements for the grant

- Start writing them early. Involve the students in writing sections.

- If your receive a grant, be sure to follow all the requirements

- All grants require budget information. Come up with a team budget early as you will use this again and again.
  - http://www.ortop.org/Documents/DEIM/DEiM-FRC_Rookie_Budget.pdf

- Sample Business Plans
  - https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/fundraising-toolkit/section-1.1-business-plan-overview.pdf
  - https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/fundraising-toolkit/business-plan-example-frc-68.pdf
  - http://frcteam16.org/assets/business-plan-2017-final-.pdf

Credits

- This lesson was written by FRC 8027 for FRCTutorials.com

- You can contact the author at team@droidsrobotics.org

- More lessons for FIRST Robotics Competition are available at www.FRCtutorials.com