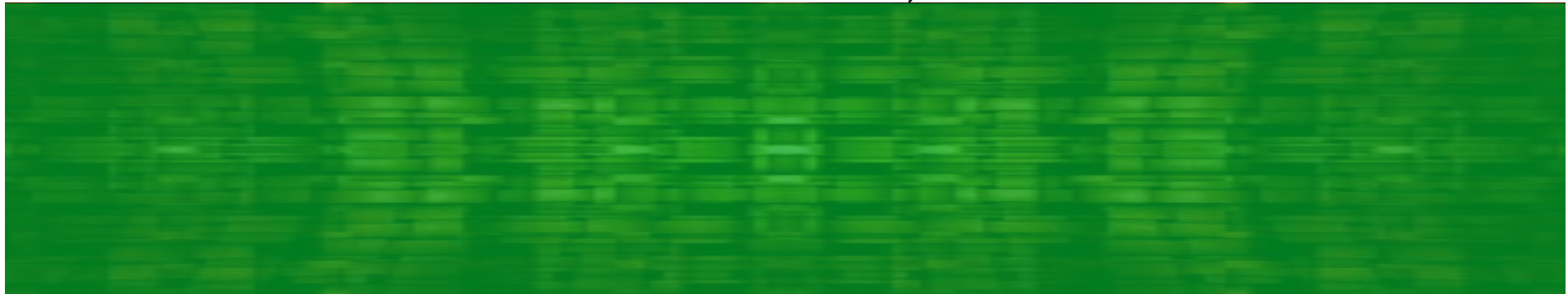


Edina Robotics *FIRST*® Team 1816
The Green Machine

Volunteer Grants
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Volunteer Grants

- Many companies offer grants to charitable organizations when their employees volunteer a minimum number of hours on behalf of the organization
- Companies may automatically issue grants when employees perform a minimum number of volunteer hours and provide proof of 501(C)3 charitable organization status
- Volunteers can be mentors, parents or anyone providing volunteer assistance to a team
- Does your team have volunteers who are employed by a company that offers volunteer grants? Fundraising teams should explore volunteer grants as a regular fundraising tool

Example: Cargill Volunteer Award

- Volunteer grant requirements vary by company, but the following Cargill Volunteer Award example has the type of requirements and questions a volunteer applicant should be prepared to provide
- Volunteers should work with their team to gather information before applications are submitted
- Teams should be prepared to verify information submitted by a volunteer applicant before grants are awarded

Example: Cargill Volunteer Award

- The Cargill Cares Volunteer Award is a volunteer grant that recognizes full-time employees, part-time employees, retirees and groups at Cargill and its Joint Venture Partners
- Grant amounts are \$2500
- 50 individuals and/or groups are honored annually
- Individuals must volunteer at least 50 hours, or 150 hours for a group, for a single organization
- Awards are limited to one award per fiscal year, and to three awards in five years
- Award applications are due September 15th and March 15th
- Award applications must be submitted online

Documents/Information Required

- IRS tax-exempt letter: For a charitable organization this will be an IRS 501(C)3 letter issued by the government – If your team does not have a 501(C)3 designation, work with your school district.
- Board of Director Listing
- Legal name of non-profit organization and Federal ID #
- Other known name of organization
- Organization mailing address
- Organization Contact, title, email address and phone number
- Organization web site
- Team list of volunteers (if applicable)

Volunteer Application Questions

- Organization's Mission and Purpose
- Summary of the main activities of the organization
- Select the type of volunteer service the nominee demonstrates: Direct/hands-on, Board Member, Fundraising
- Select the appropriate range of hours that represents the number of hours per year the individual or team has given to the organization. Individual: Less than 50 hours to more than 130 hours. Group: Less than 150 hours to more than 230 hours

Volunteer Application Questions

- Select the appropriate range of years of service that represents the number of years the volunteer or team has given to the organization: from 1-2 years to 9 or more years
- Which Focus Area best describes the volunteer activity for this nomination: Education, Employee Engagement, Environment, Food Security/Nutrition
- Describe the specific activities that the nominee does for the organization

Volunteer Application Questions

- Does the nominee's work address a serious social problem? If so, please explain
- How has the work of the nominee made a difference in the lives of those the organization serves and the community?
- What motivates the nominee to volunteer?
- When does the nominee volunteer with this organization?

Summary

- Teams should explore all funding options when fundraising
- Teams should tap volunteer grants, if available, as a viable source of fundraising – be sure to find out if a company recognizes retiree volunteering
- Volunteer grants give teams visibility to companies that may be willing to fund a team through outright grants