**2025 Nelson Team Grants**

**Nelson Team Grants** seek to enable LAUSD elementary and middle schools (grades 4-8) to start teams to participate in the VEX IQ Robotics Competition (VIQRC). Our goal is to motivate students to pursue STEM degrees and careers by enabling them to enjoy learning how to solve difficult problems using the Engineering Design Process.

**Team Grants for New Schools**

**New Schools** have not previously registered any VIQRC teams. New schools that are interested in starting one or more VIQRC teams can apply for a **New School Award**. New schools interested in starting two or more teams can also apply for an **Additional New Team Award**. Items covered by these awards are shown in the table below.

**Team Grants for Returning Schools**

**Returning Schools** have previously registered VIQRC teams. **Dormant Schools (**Returning Schools with VIQRC teams that have not participated since the 2021-2022 season) can apply for a **Dormant School Award.**

Returning schools with 4'x8' VIQRC fields that have not yet been expanded to 6’x8’ can apply for a **Field Upgrade Award**.

Returning schools can apply for one **Robot Upgrade Award** for each two teams that competed with 1st Generation Super Kits in their most recent season.

Returning schools that register more teams for the current season than they did for any prior season can apply for one or two **Additional Team Awards** and can apply for one **Additional Field Award** for each three teams added to the first team. Items covered by these awards are shown in the table below.

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| **Items Covered by Team Grants** | **New Schools** | | **Returning Schools** | | | | |
| **New School** | **Additional New Team** | **Dormant School** | **Field Upgrade** | **Robot Upgrade** | **Additional Team** | **Additional Field** |
| VEX IQ Competition Kit (2nd Generation) | $699.99 | $699.99 | $699.99 |  | $699.99 | $699.99 |  |
| Extra IQ Robot Battery (Li-Ion 2000 mAh) | $53.69 |  | $53.69 |  |  |  |  |
| VIQRC Field Upgrade Kit | 0 |  |  | $103.99 |  |  |  |
| VIQRC Field Kit (Full 6’x8’ Field) | $339.90 |  |  |  |  |  | $339.90 |
| VIQRC Full Game & Field Element Kit | $149.99 |  |  | $149.99 |  |  | $149.99 |
| Team Registration | $200.00 | $200.00 | $200.00 |  | $200.00 | $200.00 |  |
| FedEx Shipping + Sales Tax + CC Fee | $361.30 | $128.81 | $135.96 | $81.60 | $128.81 | $128.81 | $214.60 |
| **Totals** | **$1,804.87** | **$1,028.80** | **$1,089.64** | **$338.58** | **$1,028.80** | **$1,028.80** | **$704.49** |

**Annual Costs for New and Returning Schools**

All schools need to pay for team and league registration for each team. Registrations are not reimbursable this year.

Returning schools should purchase a [Full Game & Field Element Kit](https://www.vexrobotics.com/228-9148.html) for each field and should budget for additional robot parts for each team.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual Costs** | **New and Returning Dormant Schools** | **Other Returning Schools** | |
| **Each Team First Year** | **Each Team** | **Each Field** |
| VIQRC Team Registration | Paid by Grant First Year | $200.00 | N/A |
| League Registration | $184.00 | $184.00 | N/A |
| VIQRC Full Game & Field Element Kit | Paid by Grant First Year | N/A | $149.99 |
| Additional Robot Parts | N/A | $103.00 | N/A |
| Shipping + Tax + Credit Card Fees | N/A | $34.00 + $6.00 | $50.19 |
| **Estimated Total Cost** | **$184.00** | **$527.00** | **$200.18** |

**Team Grant Process**

* School submits Nelson Team Grant application.
* LeRoy Nelson notifies school of award decision(s).
* LeRoy sends approved school [Frequently Asked Questions](http://larobotics.org/Documents/NTG_FAQ.pdf) (PDF) and instructions to register team contacts (if they have not already registered) and team(s).
  + At least one coach must be a school staff member with a LAUSD.net email address.
  + At least one unique coach (school staff member or parent volunteer) should be registered and listed as a Primary or Secondary Coach for each VIQRC team; you should not have more teams than coaches.
  + Coaches need to complete an online Background Check before they can register teams or be listed as Primary or Secondary Coaches.
  + No prior robotics or technical experience is required to be a coach. Coach training is provided.
* School registers team contacts and team(s). No student names needed. Payment(s) may be covered by grant.
* School forwards team numbers or registration order confirmation email to LeRoy.
* LeRoy pays team registration fee if covered by grant. Otherwise, school pays.
* A small box containing a Team Welcome Kit should arrive approximately one week after payment of fee(s). This Kit includes two license plates, sample game elements, and practice engineering notebooks.
* New coaches attend **Coach Virtual Training**.
  + Recommendations to make the first year VIQRC team experience fun and successful.
  + 2-hour sessions are offered by LeRoy via Zoom at various times weekly in June, August, and September.
  + Introduction to online resources for coach training and certification, team logistics, engineering design process, robot builds, programming, engineering notebooks, judging, leagues, other events, etc.
  + Questions and Answers.
  + Optional for coaches with experience or who already have a Coach Certificate.
* Coaches may also attend optional **Coach Hands-On Training**.
  + 4-hour sessions are offered in Manhattan Beach on Saturday afternoons in June, August, and September.
  + Additional sessions may be offered at school sites if there is sufficient interest.
  + 4-20 coaches per session build and program basic robots using VEX IQ Education Kits.
  + Coaches should bring a portable computer (Windows, MacBook, iPad, or Chromebook) that can be used by their students later.
  + Coaches are offered T-shirts, handouts, and additional VIQRC parts for their teams after this training.
* All coaches should complete the online **Coach Academy**.
  + Prepares new coaches and mentors to form and guide student teams for VIQRC and VRC.
  + Represents about 8 hours of professional development and training when completed.
  + Experienced coaches can take the Quizzes to see if they are prepared to take the Final Exam.
  + Forward a copy of Coach Certificate email to LeRoy.
* Beginning in August, LeRoy provides VIQRC equipment, full fields, and full game & field element kits to schools that have registered their teams.
  + Most equipment will be shipped directly to schools from VEX Robotics in Texas via Federal Express.
  + The equipment shipment for new schools includes up to 7 boxes weighing a total of 90 pounds.
  + LeRoy sends school shipping confirmation.
* School organizes team(s) to learn how to build and program VIQRC robots.
* LeRoy works with host schools to organize and post leagues and tournaments for teams to attend.
* In September, LeRoy sends school instructions to register teams(s) for leagues and/or tournaments.
* School registers team(s) for at least one official event (league or tournament).
* School forwards event registration order confirmation(s) to LeRoy.
* Teams attend event(s) with at least one background-checked adult coach (teacher or parent) for each team.
* Top teams qualify for LAUSD Conference Championships, Southern California Championships, CREATE U.S. Open, and VEX Robotics World Championships.

**LAUSD VIQRC Leagues**

Our 2025-26 goal is to start 15 new schools and 40 additional teams, restart 20 dormant teams, and support 323 returning teams this season, which will require starting up to 5 new leagues and supporting 13 returning leagues and 2 LAUSD Conference Championships.

Each new league should have 16-24 teams. Each continuing league should have 20-36 teams. Each league needs at least 16 teams for the top teams to qualify for LAUSD Conference Championships and/or Southern California Championships.

Coaches of teams attending a new league and new Coaches attending other leagues should attend a League Orientation.

Leagues meet after school or on Saturdays four times between October and January:

* September: **League Orientations** for coaches. Optional for returning leagues.
* October: **Qualifying Session 1**: optional Practice Teamwork Matches and Qualification Teamwork Matches.
* November and December: **Qualifying Sessions 2-3**: Qualification Teamwork Matches.
* December and January: **Remote Judging**: Digital Engineering Notebooks submitted and Team Interviews.
* January: **Championship Session**: Skills Matches and Judging followed by Finals Matches and Awards.
* After-school league sessions typically start at 4:00 PM.
* **League Orientations** typically end by 5:30 PM for coaches and by 7:00 PM for league volunteers.
* **Qualifying Sessions** typically end by 7:00 PM.
* **Championship Sessions** typically end by 7:45 PM.

**Team Grants by Year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **VEX IQ Robotics Competition Seasons** | **Recipient Schools** | **Schools Withdrew** | **New  Schools** | **Additional Teams** | **Returning Teams** | **Leagues** | **Championships** |
| 2025-2026 Mix & Match | ~50 | (Goals) | ~15 | ~40 | ~20 | ~18 | ~2 |
| 2024-2025 Rapid Relay | 39 | 3 | 12 | 27 | 9 | 13 | 2 |
| 2023-2024 Full Volume | 50 | 3 | 16 | 41 | 21 | 12 | 4 |
| 2022-2023 Slapshot | 105 | 1 | 26 | 21 | 196 | 10 | 4 |
| 2021-2022 Pitching In | 103 | 10 | 16 | 30 | 141 | 6 | 4 |
| 2020-2021 Rise Above | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | 2 |
| 2019-2020 Squared Away | 46 | 4 | 42 | 40 |  | 10 | 2 |
| 2018-2019 Next Level | 131 | 14 | 119 | 1 |  | 9 |  |
| 2017-2018 Ringmaster | 69 | 4 | 65 | 2 |  | 5 |  |
| 2016-2017 Crossover | 14 | 1 | 13 | 0 |  | 2 |  |
| 2015-2016 Bank Shot | 21 | 3 | 18 | 0 |  | 1 |  |
| **Totals** | **578** | **43** | **327** | **162** | **367** | **68** | **15** |
| \* Plus one non-LAUSD league | | | | | | | |

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.For additional information, please see <http://larobotics.org/Documents/NTG_FAQ.pdf> or contact:

LeRoy Nelson, Founder and Treasurer, Los Angeles Robotics, 1457 3rd Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
E-mail: [LeRoy@LARobotics.org](mailto:LeRoy@LARobotics.org) Mobile phone: (310) 529-4637 Hours: 10 AM – 9 PM 7 days/week

**Team Grant Agreement**

If my school receives a **Nelson Team Grant**, I understand that my school can continue to use the provided VEX IQ Robotics Competition (VIQRC) equipment for as long as my team fulfills the conditions listed below. A new VIQRC season starts after the VEX Robotics World Championships in late April or early May each year.

* The coaches/mentors and administration at my school support creating a sustainable VIQRC program.
* The VIQRC equipment will be stored in a safe, clean location.
* The VIQRC equipment will be used for official VIQRC events each season.
* My team(s) will complete and pay team registration each season.
* My team(s) will register for and will attend at least one official event (league or tournament) each season.
* My team(s) will participate in post-season surveys to assure that the above conditions have been fulfilled.

In the future, if my team(s) no longer fulfill the conditions listed above, I will return the VIQRC equipment so that it can be made available to another school.

**Team Grant Application**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| My school plans to register at least |  | **VIQRC Teams for the 2025-26 Mix & Match season** Note: Please enter numbers in the boxes. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| My N**ew School** is applying for: |  | 1 **New School Award** |  | 1 **Additional New Team Award** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| My **Returning School** is applying for: |  | 1 **Returning Dormant School Award** |  | 1 **Field Upgrade Award** |  | 1 or 2 **Robot Upgrade Awards** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 or 2 **Additional Team Awards** |  | 1 **Additional Field Award**   (for each three teams added to the first team) | | |

**Coaches.** At least one coach for each team must have a LAUSD.org email address. Each team needs its own adult coach or mentor at events.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # | Coach Name | Title/Position | Email Address | Phone | Mobile Phone |
| 1 |  | 5th grade teacher |  | 123-456-7890 | 123-456-7890 |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |

**Signature**: Note: This application should be signed by a school administrator, preferably by the Principal.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Signer Name: |  | Title/Position: |  | Date Signed: |  |
| Email Address: |  | | | Phone: | 123-456-7890 |
| School Name: |  | | | LAUSD Region: |  |
| School Address: |  | City: |  | Zip Code: |  |