

Applicant Information

Project Title

Error Code Xero Robotics

Applicant Name

Tom Sommerville

Registered Tax Exempt Number (if applicable)

26-1354007

Contact (Name)

Tom Sommerville

Title

Mentor

Project Duration: Start Date

09/01/2025

Estimated Completion Date

08/31/2026

Project Budget**Total Project Budget**

\$ 4,000.00

Applicant Cash Match (a)

\$ 2,000.00

In-Kind Resources (b)

\$ 0.00

Total Applicant Match (a+b)

\$ 2,000.00

Grant Request

\$ 2,000.00

Project Narrative Questions

Provide a project description

Provide opportunities for students to be involved with the Wilsonville High School FIRST Robotics team, learning STEM skills while building interpersonal capabilities in a team environment.

How does your project promote education, diversity, arts, civic engagement and/or provide entertainment and strengthen the community?

Our team promotes education by being structured much like a tech startup, with different departments (known as sub-teams) working together to create a collaborative and well-rounded final product. Along with mentors, our seven sub-teams -electrical, business, mechanical, scouting, software, strategy, and design- offer students the opportunity to expand their knowledge in multiple areas. Members engage in hands-on experiences such as using computer systems to design robots, developing budgets, writing grant requests, and working within defined deadlines. Sub-team leads serve as student mentors and guides for newer members, helping foster leadership and collaboration. Many alumni who served as sub-team leads have gone on to receive scholarships, showing the lasting educational impact of this structure. At the core of all our efforts are the six FIRST Core Values: discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork, and fun. As a student-led and mentor-driven team, we truly believe that by building robots, we are building the next generation of STEM innovators.

Beyond education, Team 1425 strengthens the community through outreach and events. Each fall, we host Girls Gen, an off-season event at Wilsonville High School that encourages women and first-time participants to take on leadership roles and gain competition experience. We also host FIRST Chance, which provides a welcoming environment for new players to learn and compete, helping foster inclusion and diversity in STEM. In March, we host the Wilsonville District Competition, a two-day regional event that brings in over 35 FRC teams and more than 1,500 visitors to the city. Both events not only keep students across the Pacific Northwest engaged year-round, but also bring recognition to Wilsonville and support local businesses, especially hotels and restaurants.

Through education, diversity, civic engagement, and community events, our team continues to create meaningful opportunities for students while strengthening the community around us.

What are your organization's goals for this project? And, what population are you aiming to serve? (youth, seniors, families, underprivileged, persons with disabilities, etc..) Using measurable amounts whenever possible, consider the question: How will you know that you succeeded in your goals?

The goals of this project are two-fold, rooted in Team 1425's mission of "Building Robots, Building People." First, we aim to equip students with valuable life skills—teamwork, communication, leadership, accountability, and self-confidence—while also fostering technical expertise in STEM fields. Second, we strive to be an inclusive team where students from every economic, social, and educational background can feel welcomed, contribute meaningfully, and find success. While our short-term goal each season is to design and build a competitive robot, our long-term goal is to develop the next generation of STEM innovators and community leaders.

Our primary population is youth, including students at Wilsonville High School, home-schooled students, and other local high schoolers. We also engage families through community events and inspire younger students through middle school outreach and demonstrations. By intentionally recruiting diverse participants, we ensure that students from underrepresented or underprivileged backgrounds also have access to opportunities in robotics and STEM.

We measure success in several ways. At the student level, we look at engagement during the build season, which can be gauged by attendance, participation in meetings, and the scope of projects each student undertakes within their sub-team. At the team level, we measure sustainability year-to-year, including student retention, alumni success (such as scholarships and STEM pathways), and the growth of our outreach activities. The continued ability of Team 1425 to welcome new students annually and provide an inclusive, supportive environment demonstrates that our goals are being achieved.

How are you/your organization suited to produce this project/program? Provide the community resources that will be used if applicable (volunteers, local vendors, local contributions, etc.)

Team 1425 is uniquely suited to produce this program because of the strong foundation of knowledge, mentorship, and community support we have built over many years. Almost all of our mentors have graduated from science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAM), or business fields, with several holding advanced degrees. They bring a variety of expertise to students and volunteer countless hours of their time. Without their guidance, students would not have the same opportunities to learn the technical and business skills needed to build a competitive robot. On Team 1425, we deeply value our mentors for not only teaching real-world skills, but also inspiring students to pursue STEAM career paths. Beyond technical expertise, our team develops social and leadership skills in every member. Students learn how to manage projects, solve problems creatively, strengthen communication, and work collaboratively. As one member noted, their favorite part of the team was “showing the rookies how to use the machines at the shop,” while another shared that it was “working together and collaborating with amazingly creative and genius minds.” These experiences demonstrate that Team 1425 builds far more than robots—we build teamwork, confidence, and genuine Gracious Professionalism.

Our success is also made possible through community resources. We rely on dedicated volunteers who assist at events and mentor students. We partner with local vendors for parts, machining, and donations, ensuring that our work supports the Wilsonville business community. Additionally, local contributions from sponsors, families, and businesses sustain our program year after year, allowing us to keep the team accessible to all students regardless of background. This strong network of mentors, students, and community partners ensures that we are well-suited to deliver meaningful impact through our program.

Signature and Certification Letter:

I hereby certify that all the facts, figures and representations made in this application, including all attachments, are true and correct. This application is made with the written approval of my board of directors, which is attached to this application.

I agree that all publicity, press releases, publications, materials and /or media advertising produced as a part of this proposed project will acknowledge the Grant Program as follows: “This project is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Wilsonville.”

I agree to carry out this project as outlined within this application. Further, I understand that failure to do so will invalidate this agreement and necessitate the immediate return of all Community Opportunity Grant monies to the City of Wilsonville.

Signature

Thomas I Sommerville Jr

Date Signed Sat 8/30/25

I Accept

Yes

Project Budget

This budget provides the detail of the project that the grant funds will be applied to. This should include how the funds from this grant will be spent. Expenses must be explicitly defined. Please include in-kind and cash match.

Income Sources	Amount
Team Funds	\$2,000.00
City of Wilsonville Grant	\$2,000.00
Total Project Income	\$4,000.00

Expenses - Must be specifically itemized	Amount
20 Student Team/Travel Scholarships @ \$200	\$4,000.00
Total Project Expense	\$4,000.00

Organization Budget

This budget shows how this project fits into your organization. The project should be shown as a line in this budget.

Fiscal Year: 2025 to 2026

Income Sources	Amount
Lam Research (anticipated)	\$500.00
Lam Research (mentor hours matching award)	\$8,000.00
Xerox (anticipated)	\$5,000.00
TE Connectivity	\$2,000.00
City of Wilsonville Grant (applied)	\$2,000.00
other (anticipated awards through FIRST, student fundraising, etc)	\$10,000.00
Student Fees	\$8,000.00
Total Organization Income	\$35,500.00

Expenses	Amount
Mechanical team (robot builds and other projects)	\$23,830.00
Electrical team	\$2,514.00
Software team	\$200.00
Scouting team	\$480.00
Business/Marketing team	\$4,280.00
Student Scholarships	\$4,000.00
Other (mentor travel, FIRST registration, team meals, etc)	\$25,220.00
Total Organization Expense	\$60,524.00



CITY OF WILSONVILLE COMMUNITY GRANTS FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Funded by: Community Opportunity Grant Community Cultural Events and Programs Grant

Name of Project/Event: Error Code Xero Robotics

Project Contact Name: Vaani Aga

Project Contact Email:

Project Contact Phone:

Project Date/Date Range: September 2024 - August 2025

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1. Please list the activities or elements of the program/project/event that took place:

The Wilsonville Robotics Team FRC 1425 built a successfully operational robot and travelled to four events, two of which required overnight accommodation, food, and transportation, in addition to participating in multiple local competitions. The \$2,000 grant we received was used to support 3 students with team scholarships and to aid with travel expenses promoting access to STEM educational opportunities regardless of financial circumstances.

2. Were the goals listed in your narrative achieved? How?

All goals were met. The project did meet the desired goals of the grant. Three Wilsonville students who wanted to join the team could not afford the team fees for the season but because of the grant these students were able to get scholarships and be active members of the team. This made the students eligible to be on any one of our 9 sub-teams, which are as follows: Mechanical, Design, Electrical, Strategy, Scouting, Business, Safety, Software and Outreach. Each sub-team is important to the success of our robot and the overall team community. Along with those three, many others were able to attend our Albany OR, Houston TX, Sacramento CA, and Cheney WA competitions on travel scholarships. To be eligible to apply for a team/travel scholarship a student must be a full-time student in good standing at Wilsonville High School and meet free/reduced lunch requirements.

3. Who benefited from your project or event? How many? Where from?

The scholarships directly benefited 45 students in total from this grant. Most students benefited from significant reduction of travel costs. In addition three of these students received scholarships for team membership fees, allowing them access to participate in Wilsonville Robotics. These students have contributed greatly to several different sub teams and have helped us have a very successful competition season. All three students are Wilsonville residents.

4. Will this event or project be recurring? How do you anticipate funding the project in the future?

The Wilsonville Robotics team will continue in its 22nd season building robotics and building people. The need for scholarships seems to be prevalent every school year for our robotics team. Most often it is not repeat students but new students just starting the program. Our fundraising strategies have evolved over the years to now.

To fund this project and the overall team we have taken a multi-prong approach. We have determined that our team has a 7 Elements of Funding approach. This includes Corporate Sponsors, Grants, Donations, Affinity Groups, Employee Matching Programs, Earned Income, and Fundraising Events. It takes a consistent effort of pursuing corporate sponsors with our sponsor packet, coming up with fundraising events with local businesses and restaurants, and researching and writing grants to get a solid mix of these elements for a fiscal year.

The business team also has fundraisers year-round. Several past fundraisers have included a Raffle/Bingo Night, a Bowling night at a local bowling center, and several fundraisers at local restaurants. We plan to continue the restaurant fundraisers to involve the school and city, as well as the other current events we host. Additionally, we will continue recycling cans and bottles from our team members and local events.

Attach or provide a copy of your final financial income and expense statement for this event or project.

Grant Received	\$2,000
3 team scholarships @ \$200	\$600
Team Travel Funding	\$3400
Total Disbursed	\$4,000
Wilsonville Grant Funds Used	\$2,000
Team Matching Funds	\$2,000

Attach or provide copies of any publicity or printed materials that include the statement acknowledging the source of funds.



The City of Wilsonville logo is printed onto all of our team t-shirts and merchandise.