



Application Form and Instructions
14th Annual Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award (2025)
NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium
(This Announcement Released on December 9, 2024)
Application Deadline: **January 16, 2025**



The NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium offers the **Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Awards** for a total of up to \$13,000 (individual award applications limited to a maximum of \$5,000) in memory of the unprecedented enthusiasm and vision that Dr. Dan Swets brought to the state of South Dakota in the field of robotics. Dr. Swets, founder of the South Dakota Robotics Association (which has since evolved into other robotics organizations), saw the value of robotics in recruiting students into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at an early age. He strove to provide those opportunities for students throughout their educational career. Not only does this help young people in science and engineering in general, but it also produces high quality students that NASA is looking toward to help fulfill its mission. Dr. Swets served on the Management Team of the SD Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) for 15 years. SDSGC provides this annual award to a South Dakota teacher or informal educator of robotics who will carry on these traditions in memory of Dr. Swets and the three other gentlemen who tragically lost their lives in an airplane crash on December 9, 2011; Mr. Kevin Anderson, Mr. Joshua Lambrecht, and pilot Mr. Brian Blake, while on their way from Sioux Falls to Rapid City to assist with a robotics program.

This funding is open to South Dakota teachers/educators who either: A) have taken robotics training or plan to take robotics training and want to begin new robotics programs and teams, or B) have sustained robotics programs/curriculum in their classrooms or at their schools that are in need of additional support due to growth in the number of student participants or aging robotics materials. First-time applicants to this award and teachers/educators at schools/organizations that currently don't have robotics programs are encouraged to apply. Past winners and teachers/educators with existing robotics programs at their institutions are also eligible. Information about SDSGC is available online at <https://sd.spacegrant.org> and questions can be directed to Dr. Edward Duke at 605-394-2388 or Edward.Duke@sdsmt.edu

Letter of Intent and Application Form: Please submit a **one-page** Letter of Intent attached to the completed application form on the following page. The Letter of Intent must: 1) describe the robotic materials that you request to purchase (with a cost estimate up to a maximum of \$5,000 including shipping), and 2) explain how the materials will be used for educational purposes. **Computer and clothing purchases are not allowed.** If you already have robotics programs/curriculum in your classroom or at your school, please briefly describe that. If you haven't yet taken robotics training, but plan to take it, please describe when and where you plan to do that. Usage of the robotics materials requested under this grant may be collaborative among a group of educators who plan to share the materials. **Please include the company name, address, phone number, and/or website address of the robotics supplier where the materials can be ordered, as well as the specific "item numbers" or "Product ID" numbers of the robotics materials that you wish to order from whichever website or catalogue you are using.** This will facilitate ordering. *(Note: The robotics materials will be purchased directly by SDSGC and either delivered to, or picked up by, the award recipient).*

Non-federal cost sharing (i.e., in-kind "matching funds") is not a requirement, but it is welcome if it can be provided.

Application Submission and Deadline: One completed copy of: A) the following application form, and B) the Letter of Intent, must be received as a **single electronic file** (Word or PDF format preferred) via email by **January 16, 2025** to:

Dr. Ed Duke, Director, SDSGC
Email: Edward.Duke@sdsmt.edu

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. We anticipate notifying award winner(s) and all other applicants by February 3, 2025, in time to formally announce the winners at the SD STEM Ed teachers conference in Huron, SD. Information on winning projects will be posted at:

<https://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/DanSwetsRoboticsAward.html>

Reporting and Evaluation: Because SDSGC's lead institution will move from SDSM&T to SDSU in late February 2025, winners will need to: 1) submit a brief report to SDSU's Dr. Todd Letcher <todd.letcher@sdstate.edu> by January 9, 2026, including the number and ages of students reached and the educational impacts of the project, and 2) complete an evaluation survey provided by SDSGC Program Evaluator Steckelberg Consulting, LLC, at the end of their first project year.

Application Form

Daniel Swets Robotics Materials Award for 2025
NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium

Name _____

School or Educational Organization _____

School Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

If you have received robotics training in the past, please indicate when and where, and the name of the trainer/instructor, if you recall.

Have you previously received Space Grant Consortium funding? Yes No

Signature (or typed name)

Date