



Thank you for your interest in the Gray's Reef Southeast MATE ROV Competition! During this exciting, ocean STEM-education experience, student teams from across our region challenge each other in an underwater robotic mission simulation, each vying for a coveted spot to represent our southeast region at the International MATE ROV Competition.

The 2018 Gray's Reef Southeast MATE ROV Competition will take place on Saturday, April 21 at the Chatham County Aquatic Center in Savannah. We are expecting approximately 150+ students and educators competing with 20 teams representing 10+ schools, including several local schools that draw from underserved areas of our community. The competition requires students to think of themselves as "entrepreneurs" and transform their teams into companies that manufacture, market, and sell innovative "products." In addition to engineering their remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), the students are required to prepare technical reports, poster displays, and engineering presentations that are delivered to working professionals who serve as competition judges. This experiential educational program provides for a collaborative and hands-on project to develop an understanding of engineering and math concepts while offering a real-life ocean science research focus.

Our competition here in Savannah is part of a much larger initiative encompassing over 30 regional competitions across the US and around the world. The ROV program is hosted locally by Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, facilitated by the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center (MATE) and supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. We are honored to collaborate with Georgia Southern University which co-hosts the southeast regional event and supports professional development workshops for educators. Also, Rotary International District 6920 features competition volunteer opportunities as a club service project for their membership in support of entrepreneurial development. The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation would like to invite you to join the list of distinguished supporters of this invaluable educational program.

Examples of funding support:

- \$150 Builds a Mission Station for the Regional Competition
- \$250 Purchases an ROV Kit for a School
- \$500 Provides a Training Workshop for Educators
- \$1000 Awards Trophies in your name at the Regional Competition

For more information about the competition and how you can help, please contact Amy Riesinger:

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