CIJE Robotics League 2026-2027

The CIJE Robotics League challenges **elementary (grades 4–5), middle (grades 6–8), and high school students** to work together to design, build, and program a robot that competes in an annual challenge. Schools can participate by running a robotics class or forming an extracurricular robotics club. Through this experience, students learn **advanced programming, mechanical building, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.** The annual theme and challenge are based on the **official VEX Robotics Challenge.**

CIJE runs multiple robotics tournaments throughout the year, and **participation depends on your school's CIJE membership:**

- **CSLS schools** – Eligible for **VEX GO** tournaments
- **CSMS schools** – Eligible for **VEX IQ** tournaments
- **High schools** – Eligible for **VEX V5** tournaments

To support teachers and coaches, **CIJE offers several professional development opportunities via Zoom throughout the year**, focusing on competition preparation, classroom integration, and best practices for coaching robotics teams. CIJE provides tournament logistics and event-day support; however, **we do not provide ongoing technical mentoring or robotics equipment.**

Each school is responsible for:

- Providing its own robotics coach to meet with students regularly
- Guiding students in understanding competition rules
- Supporting students' hands-on discovery and preparation for the tournament

Goals of the CIJE Robotics League

- Facilitate teamwork through authentic multidisciplinary tasks.
- Engage students in problem solving.
- Encourage learning through trial and error.
- Hands-on experience in mechanical building.

Scheduling

- An hour a week (e.g. – club hour) with the expectation that students will spend significantly more time in the weeks leading up to a tournament.
- Schools may establish robotics teams as part of the academic day or as an extracurricular activity.

Space Requirements

- A room where students have space to build and drive robots and easily access tools and hardware.
- The ideal storage is a (lockable) classroom; at a minimum, a dedicated locked cabinet is necessary.

Team Structure

- Elementary School: We recommend a team of 2-3 students.
- Middle School: We recommend a team of 2-3 students.
- High School: We recommend a team of 5-7 students.

CIJE Support

- CIJE will develop the game rules and tournament structure.
- CIJE will provide, included with your membership, sample game elements for that year's competition.
- As in other robotics leagues, technical support is NOT provided.

Competition

- An official CIJE competition rulebook will be shared at the beginning of the school year.
- Schools are welcome to include as many teams as they would like. All teams are independent of each other; there is no school average. Including weaker teams does not decrease your school's chance of winning.

Tournaments

Tournament dates can be found at www.thecije.org/robotics

- Elementary School: Tournaments take place only in the NY/NJ area and are co-ed.
- Middle School: Takes place throughout the country, with additional boys-only and girls-only options.
- High School: Tournaments take place only in the NY/NJ area and are co-ed.

Equipment

Equipment can be purchased through CIJE or VEX, the price is the same. Purchasing directly from Vex will decrease delivery time. If CIJE is not tax-exempt in your state, taxes charged by VEX are passed on to the school.

Elementary School VEX Go: School's cost is $225 per team + Shipping
Middle School VEX IQ: School's cost is $730 per team + Shipping
High School VEX V5: School's cost is $2150 per team + Shipping

Purchase directly from VEX:

Elementary school**:** GO Kit with Storage **SKU#: 269-6705**

https://www.vexrobotics.com/go-kits.html

Middle school**:** VEX IQ Competition Kit (2nd generation) **SKU#: 228-7980**

https://www.vexrobotics.com/iq-competition-kits.html

High school**:** V5 Competition Super Kit **SKU#: 276-7040**

https://www.vexrobotics.com/v5-competition-super-kit.html

Purchase through CIJE: https://www.thecije.org/robotics

Additional Equipment

- Elementary School: It is recommended each school acquire a VEX GO Competition Field Kit to practice on throughout the year: https://www.vexrobotics.com/269-8115.html
- Middle School: We recommend a 6'x8' robotics rink (walls and a floor). The rink does not change from year to year. The game pieces (aka "elements") differ from year to year. CIJE provides the minimum game "elements" (e.g., balls, hoops, etc.) needed to test your robot.
- High School: We recommend schools purchase the surface (flooring) to test their robots. The game pieces (aka "elements") differ from year to year. CIJE provides the minimum game "elements" (e.g., balls, hoops, etc.) needed to test your robot.

Questions: Please contact Adam Jerozolim at AJ@thecije.org