

MATE MASHUP

Kicking Off the 2026 MATE ROV Competition Season!

Dear MATE Community,

This season, we're reminded just how far the MATE ROV competition community has come — and how powerful student stories can be!

Last week, Joshua Davis's MATE ROV-inspired book "[Spare Parts](#)" was featured in the Santa Cruz local library's [Our Community Reads](#) feature, and it was a pleasure to reconnect and FINALLY meet in person and reflect on the early days of our program. What began as a [feature story in Wired](#) about a small but determined team inspired the book — and a [Hollywood film based on the book](#)! — and, more importantly, continues to motivate students, educators, parents, and professionals to get involved with MATE.

Seeing members of the [X Academy ROV teams](#) and their mentors at the event — and watching today's students connect with the same story that inspired so many years ago — was a powerful reminder of how much our community has grown. (In the past two years alone, X Academy ROV teams have advanced from our Monterey Bay regional to win 3rd place at the World Championship!)

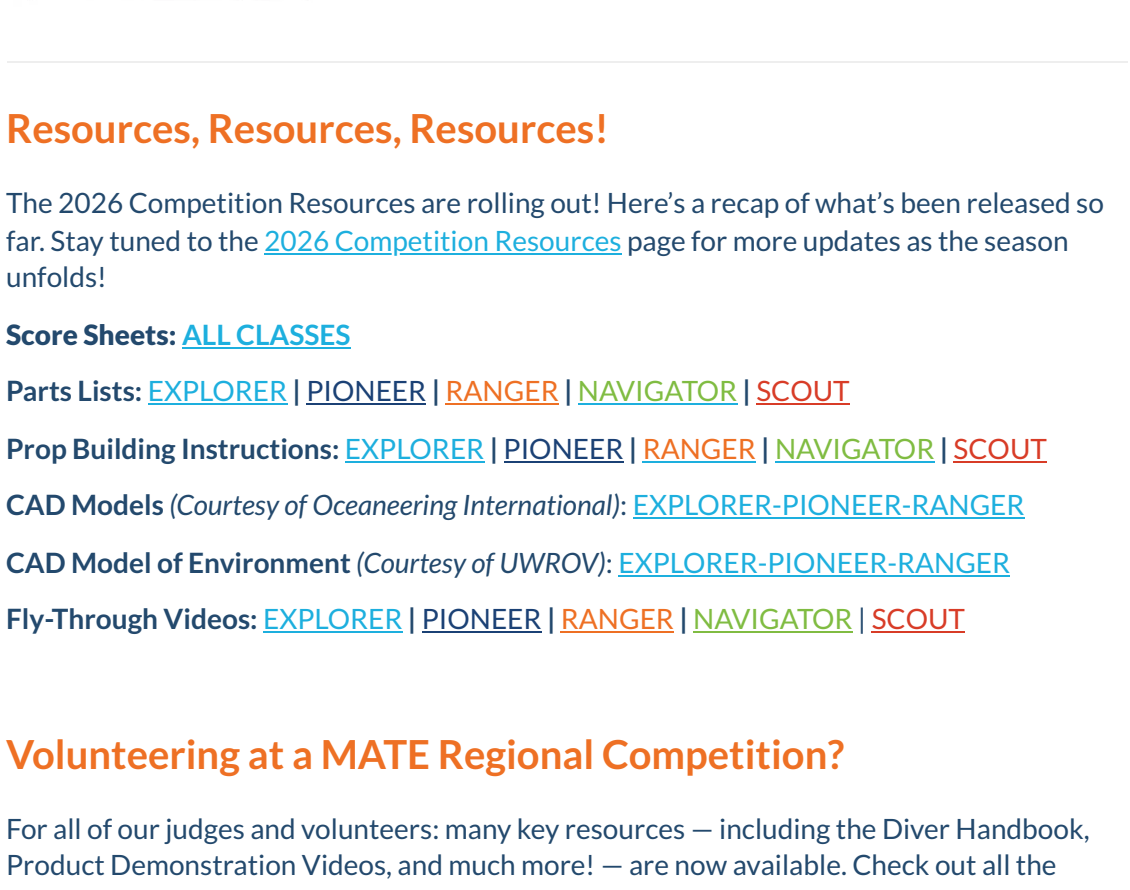
When that original story was written, our program was still in its infancy. Since then, MATE has expanded tremendously, with incredible stories of innovation, resilience, and teamwork unfolding across the globe. And now, as we launch a new season — including a first-ever regional event in Quebec — we know there are many more stories of triumph waiting to be told.

To all of our teams preparing for competition: we wish you the very best as the season begins. We can't wait to see what you accomplish!

Finally, I hope that you are all safe and well in your part of the world. Please reach out or tag us on social, or send us an e-mail to let us know. ❤️

Jill Zande
MATE Executive Director | Marine Technology Society (MTS)

(And everyone here at Team MATE!)



ROV RADAR

REMINDER: ALL Class Competition Manuals Are Now Live!

The wait is over! 🎉

The 2026 Competition Manuals for ALL classes are LIVE! All manuals are officially available - let the preparations begin.

[SCOUT](#) | [NAVIGATOR](#) | [RANGER](#) | [PIONEER](#) | [EXPLORER](#)

Resources, Resources, Resources!

The 2026 Competition Resources are rolling out! Here's a recap of what's been released so far. Stay tuned to the [2026 Competition Resources](#) page for more updates as the season unfolds!

Score Sheets: [ALL CLASSES](#)

Parts Lists: [EXPLORER](#) | [PIONEER](#) | [RANGER](#) | [NAVIGATOR](#) | [SCOUT](#)

Prop Building Instructions: [EXPLORER](#) | [PIONEER](#) | [RANGER](#) | [NAVIGATOR](#) | [SCOUT](#)

CAD Models (Courtesy of Oceanengineering International): [EXPLORER-PIONEER-RANGER](#)

CAD Model of Environment (Courtesy of UWROV): [EXPLORER-PIONEER-RANGER](#)

Fly-Through Videos: [EXPLORER](#) | [PIONEER](#) | [RANGER](#) | [NAVIGATOR](#) | [SCOUT](#)

Volunteering at a MATE Regional Competition?

For all of our judges and volunteers: many key resources — including the Diver Handbook, Product Demonstration Videos, and much more! — are now available. Check out all the resources on the [Volunteers Only](#) portal — your regional coordinator can give you the password!

STAY AFLOAT

Stay Onboard with Regional Events!

March—May is busy season for the MATE ROV Competition regional events, and our calendar is filling up more and more each day! Keep checking in to see when your nearest regional event opens, and get ready to put your engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to the test. Don't wait — spaces fill quickly, so register today and start preparing for an unforgettable competition experience.

[Regional Events Calendar >>>](#)

2026 World Championship Registration Is Open!

Reminder: the doors to the MATE ROV Competition 2026 World Championship registration are OPEN! Get ready to join us in beautiful Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada from June 25-27, 2026. We can't wait to see you there!

[Register for World Championship >>>](#)

Book Your Hotel for the 2026 World Championship!

We've snagged some awesome rooms in St. John's, Canada for the 2026 World Championship! RUN DON'T WALK - Move quickly and secure your reservations as these rooms are in high demand and won't stick around for long.

[Book Now >>>](#)

(NOT SO) HIDDEN TREASURES

PaleBlue ROV Simulator License for MATE ROV Teams

Inspired by its [impact](#) on [The KAUST School](#) preparing for the MATE Red Sea regional, [PaleBlue](#) is offering licenses to its ROV simulator to each school or organization fielding a RANGER, PIONEER, or EXPLORER class team this competition season! The simulator provides an ideal platform for MATE teams to hone in on their piloting skills. It's also an [IMCA Class A](#) simulator, which puts students on a path to achieving industry recognition. If you've already registered as a RANGER, PIONEER, or EXPLORER class team or are planning to, stay tuned for more information sent directly to your mentor's inbox!

[More Info on the Simulator >>>](#)

Blu-Sub™ Mechatronics MATE Global Discount Program

Blu-Sub Mechatronics is dedicated to helping teams access subsea technology at more affordable pricing. Student teams of all class levels participating in the MATE ROV Competition; schools, colleges, universities, and purchasing departments ordering on behalf of an eligible team; and team mentors/advisors and other institutional stakeholders supporting eligible teams are able to apply for discount codes to offset the price of various products to further their learning.

[Claim Your Codes Now >>>](#)

Schmidt Ocean Coalition ROV Stipends for MATE ROV World Championship 🏆

The Schmidt Ocean Coalition is generously continuing its support for team travel by funding stipends to the 2026 MATE World Championship! This funding is available for new and re-building RANGER, PIONEER, and EXPLORER class teams across the U.S. and around the world! Travel stipend scholarship amounts will be determined based on each team's application and typically range from \$1,000 USD to \$3,000 USD.

Deadline: May 25, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

Marine Technology Society Scholarships 🎓

Each year MTS awards significant scholarship funding to undergraduate and graduate students who are accepted into or enrolled in full-time marine-related programs (with a focus on marine technology, engineering, or science).

Deadline: March 23, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

MATE Floats!

Each year, the National Center for Autonomous Technologies (NCAT) and its maritime partners host the MATE Floats! Marine Technology Summer Workshop at the University of Washington: a 5-day immersive experience for high school and undergraduate students focused on GO-BGC float technology and ocean data science. The target audience is students attending two-year community and technical colleges, but four-year university students and high school seniors are welcome to apply. This year's workshop will take place from August 17-21.

Deadline: April 10, 2026 (Priority) | May 1 (Final).

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

Glider Technology Summer Workshop

From June 8—12, the MTS Glider Technology Summer Workshop will be held on-site at Rutgers University, providing participants real-world training in piloting and programming gliders to navigate the ocean; learning mission planning and data analysis from experts; and exploring real-world applications in climate science and marine research.

Deadline: March 20, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

ROV and Sonar Workshop

From June 15—19, the ROV and Sonar Workshop will be held on-site at Northwestern Michigan College. This week-long program is a hands-on experience using multiple sonar and ROV marine systems. Participants will log time on research vessels, and collect data using ROVs, sonars, and other sensors while learning multiple applications of these technologies.

Learn More & Apply >>>

MTS San Diego Internships

The Marine Technology Society (MTS) San Diego Section Internship Program provides a unique opportunity for students to work closely with industry professionals, researchers, and innovators in the marine technology sector. The program is open to any high school, undergraduate, or graduate student currently enrolled in an accredited institution.

Deadline: March 20, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Advancing Student Innovation & Impact

Community College Innovation Challenge

The Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is a national competition where community college student teams, working with a faculty or administrator mentor, use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to innovate solutions to real-world problems; participate in an Innovation Boot Camp; and compete for cash awards.

Deadline: April 3, 2026.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

GUIDING THE ROVolution

Underwater Robotics & Engineering Design Workshop

From April 25—26, this professional development workshop will be held on-site at SUNY Oswego in Oswego, New York. Participants will learn how to teach the engineering design process using underwater robotics, including the fundamentals of basic ROV building and engineering design activities to integrate into their classroom.

[Learn More & Apply >>>](#)

Call for Volunteers: Help Out at Your Local Regional Competition!

MATE ROV Competition regional events are on the calendar (see below!), and teams are gearing up to compete! We're looking for volunteers to serve as judges, safety inspectors, and event support to help create an inspiring and professional experience for students. Check out the list of regional events and sign up to volunteer at one near you — we'd love to have you on board.

[LEARN MORE >>>](#)

Don't Miss the National Marine Educators Association 2026

Dive into discovery with the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) in July as they celebrate 50 years! Join colleagues from across the country and globe for an inspiring week of learning, networking, and hands-on exploration along Maryland's Eastern Shore. Make sure to join for evening events too, including a welcome reception, auction, and crab feast!

[LEARN MORE >>>](#)

NOAA Ocean Exploration Blue Technology Education Workshop

As part of NMEA 2026, NOAA Ocean Exploration will host its inaugural Blue Technology Ocean Workshop. During the workshop, 30 educators will engage directly with blue technology organizations, explore classroom-ready lessons and student competitions, and collaborate with peers to develop plans to integrate technologies used for exploring the ocean into their teaching.

[LEARN MORE >>>](#)

SEAS THE DEALS

Meet the Kits: PufferFish ROV Kit Deep Dive

If your students are ready to move beyond basic assembly and dive deeper into real-world engineering, the [SeaMATE PufferFish ROV Kit](#) is where technical confidence and critical thinking take the next step.

Designed for middle school classrooms, introductory high school programs, and STEM clubs, PufferFish transforms foundational robotics knowledge into authentic, hands-on engineering experience. This isn't just about building an ROV — it's about soldering circuits, troubleshooting systems, refining designs, and learning how to think like an engineer.

We've broken down everything you need to know to successfully implement the PufferFish ROV Kit in your program at the blog linked below. Here are the highlights:

Who It's For:

- Middle school, introductory high school, and STEM clubs

Key Skills Learned:

- Soldering and electrical connections
- Circuit construction and analysis
- System troubleshooting
- Engineering design iteration
- Critical thinking and problem-solving

Highlights:

- The PufferFish Kit is reusable, providing the ability to re-practice and hone in on skills — or to share with other students
- Option to teach critical electrical safety skills by teaching students proper tool and heat handling etiquette
- Extended assembly time: 8—16 hours

What Comes Next:

- Diving fully into the Intermediate level with the [TriggerFish ROV Kit!](#)

[READ FULL STORY >>>](#)

SEAFARING SPONSORS

Thank you to the Schmidt Ocean Institute!

The Schmidt Ocean Institute has played a vital role in supporting the MATE ROV Competition. Their ongoing partnership throughout the years highlights not just their position at the forefront of ocean innovation, but also their dedication to fostering the next generation of marine technology professionals. Through their support, students from across the globe have the opportunity to be a part of the new wave of ocean technologies. We are incredibly grateful for their continued commitment and generosity!

[Learn More >>>](#)

WHAT'S ON DECK

The MATE ROV 2026 Competition is in Full Swing!

Spring will be full of events as we head full speed towards the MATE ROV Competition 2026 World Championship — so be sure to keep checking in as important dates and deadlines are announced!

Upcoming Events

April 4: Pakistan Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 15: Scotland Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 16-17: Red Sea Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 18: Florida Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 23-25: Egypt Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 24-26: Northern Gulf Coast Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 25: East Tennessee Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 25-26: Monterey Bay Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 25-26: BOYA Regional | [REGISTER](#)

April 25-26: Hong Kong Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 1: Quebec Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 2: New England Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 1-2: Appalachian Highlands Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 1-2: Gray's Reef Southeast Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 7-9: Newfoundland & Labrador Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 9: Washington Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 9: Oregon Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 9: Coastal Carolina Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 9: Texas Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 16: Great Lakes Regional | [REGISTER](#)

May 16: Pennsylvania Regional | [REGISTER](#)

June 19-21: World Championship - Alpena, Michigan | [REGISTER](#)

More regional dates and registration coming soon!

Stay On Board with MATE ROV 2026!

As the MATE ROV Competition progresses, make sure to keep checking in throughout the beginning of 2026 — we will be posting dates and info for regional competitions regularly!

[2026 SEASON UPDATES >>>](#)



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