



## GORGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

802 Chenoweth Loop Road  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-296-2266  
jessica@crgta.org  
www.crgta.org

## MISSION & VISION

The Gorge Technology Alliance (GTA) connects, supports and develops the tech community of the Columbia River Gorge. We envision an innovative technology community where businesses thrive, entrepreneurs are nurtured, community members are engaged, meaningful employment is abundant, and all children have access to innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Math opportunities.

As an industry association, we work to grow the tech industry of the bi-state region covering the counties of Hood River, Wasco and Sherman in Oregon and Skamania and Klickitat in Washington. The GTA is also a strong supporter of STEM education, hosting events and providing resources to support youth.

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## GORGE TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

### – PROGRAM OVERVIEW –

Since 2005, the GTA has worked to help start, grow, and sustain high-tech companies in the Gorge. Our regular events are a great forum for networking and bring intelligent individuals and businesses together for continued education/industry insights that benefit local businesses. The GTA also brings companies and partners together to address issues of importance to the tech sector. As a membership organization with about 120 members and sponsors, the GTA is the regionally-recognized link to the technology community.

Our events include a monthly Geek Lunch, the annual Gorge Tech Showcase and Gorge Innovators. We also offer an annual awards program that recognizes the Tech Leader of the Year and STEM Education Leader of the Year, with a \$1000 prize for the winning STEM educator's program.

As the founding organization behind the Gorge Women in STEM initiative, we support professional women working in science, tech, engineering, and math careers in the region and encourage the next generation of women.

Our website [crgta.org](http://crgta.org) offers a central location for tech job postings, or sign up for our mailing list (email [jessica@crgta.org](mailto:jessica@crgta.org)) to learn of events, job postings and other news for the Gorge's tech community.

The GTA also hosts events, loans out robotics equipment and contributes funds to support youth STEM education. The Giving Opportunities highlighted here provide more information.

### – GIVING OPPORTUNITIES –

#### DONATIONS

The Gorge Tech Alliance relies on donations for our STEM education programs, including:

- » **Corwin Hardham Memorial Scholarship** supports the college dreams of local students pursuing STEM degrees. Donate to this fund through the Gorge Community Foundation.
- » **GTA's Robotics Fund** supports our loaner program with almost 50 robotics kits and laptops available to loan for free to schools and youth groups in the region. This fund also helps host robotics tournaments in the region and funds travel expenses for youth robotics teams that have advanced to distant competitions.
- » **GTA's STEM Educator Fund** is offered in partnership with the Gorge STEM Hub. Contributions support small grants to STEM educators in the region.

#### VOLUNTEERS

The Gorge Tech Alliance relies on volunteers for our STEM education programs, including:

- » **Robotics volunteers** are needed for one-day tournaments, or make an event a

bigger impact and be a coach! No robotics experience is needed for this fun and rewarding role. We are currently recruiting for volunteers for robotics tournaments in December, January and February. Learn more at [gorgerobotics.org](http://gorgerobotics.org).

- » **Wind Challenge volunteers** support a one-day annual competition in March that introduces middle- and high-school students to wind energy. Volunteers help guide students in the process of building and testing a table-top wind turbine. This event is held in partnership with Google and Columbia Gorge Community College. Learn more at [windchallenge.org](http://windchallenge.org).
- » **STEM Career Day volunteers** support a one-day event annually in April. The GTA invites all 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the five-county region to learn about our amazing local STEM careers. Presenters are always needed! Contact [jessica@crgta.org](mailto:jessica@crgta.org) for more information.

Check out the Columbia Gorge STEM Hub listing for additional STEM volunteer opportunities.