May 26, 2026

RoboSub 2026 Community & Outreach Submission

UBC Subbots – University of British Columbia

Throughout the 2025 - 2026 RoboSub season, UBC Subbots focused on increasing accessibility to STEM education, promoting marine robotics, and strengthening collaboration within both the university and broader community. As UBC's autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) design team, we believe RoboSub is not only a competition, but an opportunity to inspire future engineers, scientists, and innovators.

Our outreach efforts included hands-on demonstrations, mentorship, educational workshops, and collaborative events with other engineering design teams. One of our primary outreach initiatives was participating in engineering showcases for first-year UBC engineering students and prospective high school students interested in attending UBC Engineering. During these events, we presented our AUV, discussed the design and testing process, and introduced students to topics including robotics, autonomy, embedded systems, and marine engineering. These showcases allowed students to interact directly with our vehicle and learn about hands-on engineering opportunities through student design teams.

Additionally, we collaborated with other UBC engineering design teams, including UBC Sailbot (autonomous sailboat design team) and SUBC (human-powered submarine design team). As leaders in UBC's marine engineering opportunities for undergraduate students, we hosted shared information sessions introducing students to marine engineering projects. In March, our three teams collaborated to host UBC's first marine engineering networking night for community members, local companies, and interested students, attracting 70+ students. These events strengthened connections between teams, improved our communication with the thriving marine engineering community in Vancouver, and promoted a more connected engineering design community centered around marine technology and innovation.

To further promote marine robotics, we shared updates through presentations, social media, and public engagement opportunities. We highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of RoboSub and discussed real-world applications of autonomous underwater systems, including ocean exploration, environmental monitoring, and infrastructure inspection. Through these outreach initiatives, our team strengthened connections within the robotics community while inspiring students to pursue STEM opportunities. We remain committed to fostering curiosity, collaboration, and accessibility in engineering education, and we look forward to continuing and expanding our outreach efforts in the coming years.