

WPAFB E.O. NEWSLETTER

October 2024

What's Happening?

20th Starbase Anniversary

Job Shadow Day

SEMEDS

Dayton Public Schools
Professional Development Day

FIRST Tech Challenge

What's Coming Up?

FIRST Competitions

WOW!

SEMEDS

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20TH

DoD

STARBASE

A Department of Defense Youth Program

Wright-Patt

Anniversary

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFRL) - AFRL celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Department of Defense STARBASE Wright-Patt program Oct. 4, 2024.

STARBASE Wright-Patt, managed by the WPAFB Educational Outreach Office, is an 5th grade destination that offers students an immersive STEM experience based on the principles of flight.



Three former students in attendance: Heidi Kennard, a high-school student, and Christian Collins, a college student, both members of the DAF LEGACY program; and Taylor Tyson, an educator who has joined the staff at the WPAFB Educational Outreach Office.

“20 years ago, Kathy Schweinfurth, then Chief of WPAFB Educational Outreach Program, and Dr. Vince Russo with the University of Dayton’s School of Engineering, advocated for a program that would allow more area children in the community to gain exposure to STEM activities,” said Dan Andrews, AFRL STEM division chief. Their initiative led to WPAFB being one of the first active-duty bases to launch a STARBASE program.



Of the 90 STARBASE locations, Wright-Patterson is the only one in Ohio and one of the first to earn Center of Excellence-Level III status.

Since 2003, more than 47,000 area 5th graders have participated in the DOD STARBASE Wright-Patt program.

E.O. OCTOBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



JOB SHADOW DAY PROGRAM

WPAFB Educational Outreach

What is Job Shadow Day?

Job Shadow Day connects students with mentors in their desired career fields. During this event, students accompany professionals throughout their workday, gaining exposure to the skills, challenges, and rewards of different jobs. Whether it's a busy hospital, an engineer's lab, or a day touring and learning about the C-17, job shadowing provides a unique glimpse into the working world.



SEMEDS

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE EDUCATORS



A group of enthusiastic kids visited Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to engage in an exciting hands-on experience using the scanning electron microscopes (SEMs). Guided by expert scientists, they learned how these powerful tools allow us to see tiny details at the nanoscale.

The kids examined various materials, discovering the intricate structures of everything from insects to metals. This experience not only sparked their curiosity about science and technology but also inspired them to think about future careers in STEM fields.

E.O. OCTOBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

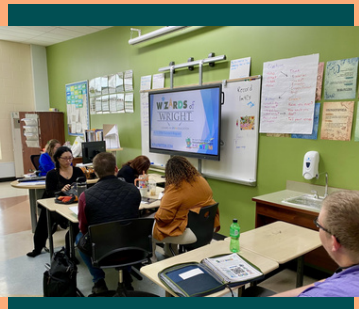


CHALLENGE



On October 26th, the National Museum of the United States Air Force hosted its annual “Troops and Treats” event, featuring Halloween-themed activities and trick-or-treating for kids. Brenda Ronnebaum from the WPAFB Educational Outreach Office joined local robotics teams, offering hands-on opportunities to build with LEGO, program LEGO SPIKE PRIME robots, and drive FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition robots. Special thanks to volunteers Richard Storricks and Neil Williams, along with teams like Nuts and Bolts, Bionic Tigers, and others for their contributions. The event attracted an estimated 8,000 visitors, making it a great success!

DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



The Educational Outreach Office was thrilled to engage with Dayton Public Schools teachers during their Professional Development Day on October 28. We introduced two key programs:

- **WOW! Program:** Provides teachers with free resources, including hands-on STEM lessons and loanable materials to enhance classroom learning.
- **LEGACY:** A three-phase program guiding students from age 11 to college, aimed at sparking early interest in STEM and inspiring future careers in Air Force-related fields.

Productive discussions with teachers from various schools were conducted, including Valerie, Kiser, Cleveland, River’s Edge Montessori, Mound Street Academy, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Meadowdale Career Technology Center, and Thurgood Marshall STEM High School. We look forward to supporting these schools in expanding STEM opportunities for their students!

E.O. OCTOBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



LEGACY GOOD NEWS STORY

Department of Air Force Leadership Experience Growing Apprenticeships Committed to Youth (LEGACY) Jr. Apprentice, Sage, began LEGACY the summer before beginning 7th grade. Sage returned to Craftsman camps each summer and just completed her second year as a Jr. Apprentice making this her 6th LEGACY summer.

This summer, Sage worked at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) modifying 5th Generation Aerial Target (5GAT) to make it more stable and supersonic. She also helped create a better testing method for the Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) system by using a model with different materials. In her first year as a LEGACY Jr. Apprentice, she worked in the biology department. "Working in two completely different areas in the internship, biology one year and aeronautics the next, was really helpful to get a broader idea of different career fields, and it was also fun," added Sage.

While in high school, Sage played softball, tennis, and was involved in theatre. She likes sports and enjoys outdoor activities of all kinds in her free time. One fun fact is that she has lived in Colorado Springs her entire life and has never moved.

SAGE MARINE NAVY



This fall, Sage will join the Navy. "I decided to join the Navy because I want to travel to different parts of the world and gain new experiences, as well as take advantage of the benefits like free college, healthcare, and good job experience," said Sage.

In the Navy, she hopes to excel in and enjoy her work and job. "I will be maintaining aircraft safety systems, which is an important and necessary job. I want to work hard at it and maybe someday help design new systems in the future," added Sage.

When asked what she has enjoyed about the LEGACY program, she said, "One thing I really like about LEGACY is the opportunity to work in real STEM labs with high-tech machines and equipment, and also to be in high school or recently out of high school and working alongside experts who have been in their fields their whole lives- it's honestly a really special opportunity that is super valuable for learning and for my career."

"The LEGACY program, including the Craftsman camps and internships, have helped me learn a lot about STEM and what it's like to work in a professional workplace, and was also a good opportunity to try different things which gave me a better idea of what I want to pursue in the future," Sage revealed.