

WPAFB E.O.

# NEWSLETTER

January 2024

## What's Happening?

*FIRST* Lego League Explore  
*FIRST* Lego League  
*FIRST* Tech Challenge  
DAF LEGACY  
SEMEDS

## What's Coming Up?

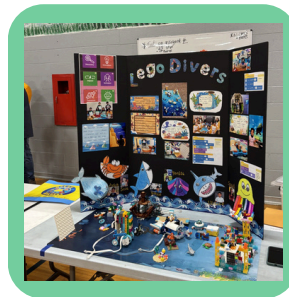
*FIRST* Lego League Explore  
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## EXPLORE

**FIRST LEGO League Explore teams showcased their program this January at the Solon FLL Explore Festival in Northeast Ohio! 11 teams presented at this event, showing off all they have learned and accomplished so far this season. The teams of students ages 6-10 participated in this program which inspires young people to experiment and grow their confidence, critical thinking, and design skills through hands-on learning. During the ocean-inspired 2024-2025 FIRST season, FIRST® DIVE SM presented by Qualcomm, "sea" into the future! The FIRST LEGO League challenge is called SUBMERGED. Children used creative thinking and LEGO® technology to explore the layers of the ocean and innovate for a better future with healthy oceans. As always, we were so impressed with what these young innovators were able to explore, create, test, and share!**



# E.O. JANUARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to the bright young minds who competed at Ohio FIRST LEGO League Challenge competitions this January! Teams competed in Cincinnati, Columbus, and Northeast Ohio showcasing incredible innovation, teamwork, and engineering skills as they tackled this season's challenges. From designing autonomous robots to developing creative solutions for real-world problems, these students demonstrate the best of what Ohio's young innovators have to offer.

This season's challenge is SUBMERGED; teams are researching problems faced by those who explore the oceans and are proposing innovative solutions to their identified problems. They are also designing, building, and programming their robots to earn points on an ocean-themed game table. We are ever inspired by the accomplishments of these young teams!



January was a busy month for FIRST Tech Challenge in Ohio! The snowy, frigid air this month didn't keep teams from firing up their robots to compete. Five qualifying tournaments hosted 120 competing teams throughout the state. Kirtland Robotics Qualifier, Central OH Qualifier at OSU Newark, Dayton Qualifier at Sinclair Community College, Hinckley Academy Qualifier, and Walnut Hills Qualifier all took place this month. What a great showing of student perseverance and innovation at the competitions so far! These events all require an immense amount of planning and volunteer hours. Thank you to all of the volunteers, hosts, coaches, mentors, parents, and families who make these events possible. State qualifying competitions will conclude next month with the Kent State University Qualifier, Van Wert Qualifier, and Miami University Qualifier. Good luck to all teams!

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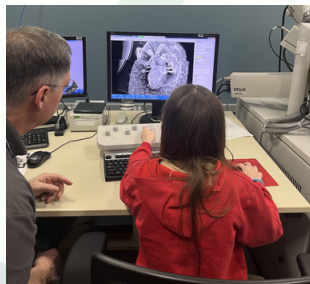
## Applications Now Open for LEGACY Air Force STEM Camps!

The LEGACY program offers one-week day camps for students ages 11 to 15, focused on hands-on STEM learning and leadership development. Apply now to be part of this exciting opportunity to explore the world of Air Force STEM!

Students, ages 11-15, can apply, and after attending, may be invited to return for the next age camp the following summer.

 **Deadline: March 17**

**Don't miss your chance to join the LEGACY experience! Apply today!**



A group of enthusiastic students 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 researchers to see tiny details at the nanoscale.

The students 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. It was an evening filled with learning, exploration, and fun!

