

THE OUTREACH ORBIT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WPAFB STEM OUTREACH

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

Job Shadow Day

WOW!

FLL: Good News Stories

Fall 2026 Job Shadow Day

Coming Up October 22, 2026!

High school juniors and seniors are invited to participate in our Fall 2026 Job Shadow Day on Thursday, October 22, 2026. This is a great opportunity for students to explore career possibilities, experience a professional workplace, and gain valuable insight into different career paths.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details about registration, expected the last week of September.

Bring Hands-On STEM to Your Students!

The school year is underway - WOW! is ready to get STEM in motion!

With 50+ hands-on lessons for students in grades K–12 and a growing collection of STEM materials available to borrow, WOW! in the Classroom and WOW! on Wheels give teachers multiple ways to bring experimentation, problem-solving, creativity, and real-world STEM into classrooms. Students can investigate with magnets, explore animal adaptations, tackle engineering design challenges, discover the science behind roller coasters, investigate chemistry mysteries, build bridges, explore coding and robotics, reverse engineer devices, and much more!

WOW! can bring the lessons to you, or teachers can borrow a wide variety of STEM materials to bring hands-on learning into their own classrooms. Examples include microscopes, beakers, flasks, and graduated cylinders, and coding and robotic devices such as Bee-Bots, Ozobots, Finch Robots, Sphero Indis and Bolts, Micro:Bits, Makey Makeys, and new this year...Raspberry Pi.

Explore. Request. Inspire.

Visit the WOW! website to explore 50+ lessons for K–12 and discover the full selection of STEM materials available to borrow. Find something your students will love? Request it today!

- WOW! in the Classroom: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WIC2627>
- WOW! on Wheels: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WOW2627>

Whether students are discovering their first engineering challenge, writing their first lines of code, or exploring advanced STEM concepts, WOW! is here to help turn curiosity into hands-on learning.

Let's make this a year full of exploring, creating, experimenting, and discovering STEM!



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FLL Challenge: Good News Stories

Six Ohio FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge teams advanced from the State Championship in March 2026 and two of those teams earned awards. Friendly competition is at the heart of FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge, as teams of students ages 9-16 engage in research, problem-solving, coding and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of the UNEARTHED challenge.

The FIRST LEGO League World Festival, which is part of the FIRST Championship was held in Houston, TX at the George R Brown Convention Center from April 29 - May 2, 2026, with 160 teams from around the world celebrating and showcasing their STEM skills.

Team 56510 Innov8 was one of three teams who won the Motivate Award. This award celebrates a team that embraces the culture of FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge through team building, team spirit, and displays enthusiasm.

Coach Padmaja Kandisetty with Team 56510 Innov8 was one of six coaches who won the **Coach/Mentor Award**. Coaches and mentors inspire their teams to do their best, both as individuals and together. This award goes to the coach or mentor whose leadership and guidance is clearly evident and best exemplifies the FIRST Core Values.



Western Edge was held May 28-31, 2026, at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, CA, where 90 teams from different countries and cultures shared ideas, traded pins and gifts, solved problems together, and formed friendships that stretched far beyond the competition fields. For four unforgettable days, students, coaches, mentors, volunteers, and families from around the world gathered to celebrate engineering, creativity, and the values that make the FIRST community so unique.

Team 2751 Lego Legion won the Champion's Award! This award celebrates a team that embodies the FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge experience by fully embracing the Core Values while achieving excellence and innovation in Robot Performance, Robot Design, and the Innovation Project.

