

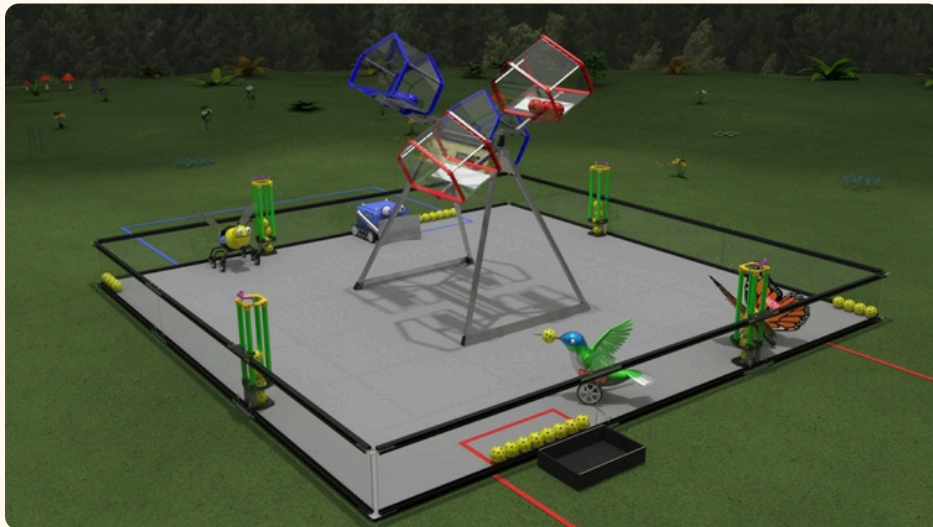
THE OUTREACH ORBIT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WPAFB STEM OUTREACH

THIS MONTH'S NEWS:

FTC: BIOBUZZ

STARBASE: Wright-Patt



FIRST Tech Challenge Season Kick Off

On September 12, Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams gathered across the state to celebrate the official kickoff of the 2026–2027 season, BIOBUZZ presented by RTX. Students met at six regional host locations—Loveland, Kirtland, Lodi, Newark, Dayton, and Archbold—to count down to the game reveal, network with fellow teams, and brainstorm innovative engineering solutions.

This season's BIOBUZZ challenge invites students to step into the world of ecosystems and biodiversity. Throughout the competition, teams will explore the natural world by leveraging community connections, driving innovation, and harnessing the energy found in nature to solve real-world engineering problems.

We are thrilled to embark on another action-packed season! We invite community members to support these inspiring young innovators—whether by attending a local event as a spectator or joining us as a volunteer.



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OHIO *FIRST* TECH CHALLENGE EVENTS as of 09/30/2026

OCT 3 - Dayton Scrimmage 1 – Sinclair Community College Centerville
OCT 10 – Central OH League Scrimmage – Centennial High School
OCT 22 – CSU & CMSD Scrimmage – MidTown Collaboration Center, Cleveland
OCT 24 – Central OH League Meet 1 – Centennial High School
OCT 24 - Dayton Scrimmage 2 – Sinclair Community College Centerville
NOV 7 – NEOH League Scrimmage – Solon Middle School
NOV 14 – Central OH League Meet 2 – Centennial High School
NOV 14 – NEOH League Meet 1 – Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills
NOV 15 – Loveland Scrimmage – Loveland High School
NOV 21 - Dayton Scrimmage 3 – Sinclair Community College Centerville
NOV 21 – NEOH League Meet 2 – University School, Chagrin Falls
DEC 1 – CSU & CMSD Qualifier – MidTown Collaboration Center, Cleveland
DEC 5 – Central OH League Meet 3 – Centennial High School
DEC 5 – Miami University Scrimmage – Miami University Benton Hall
DEC 6 – NEOH League Meet 3 – Mayfield Middle School
DEC 12 – Central OH Olentangy Qualifier – Olentangy Berlin Middle School
DEC 12 – Dayton Qualifier – Sinclair Community College Centerville
DEC 19 – Central OH League Tournament – Centennial High School
DEC 19 – NEOH League Tournament – Hathaway Brown, Shaker Heights
JAN 23 – Lebanon Qualifier – Warren County Fairgrounds
JAN 30 – Van Wert Qualifier – Van Wert High School
FEB 6 – Lodi Family Center Cloverleaf Qualifier – Cloverleaf High School
FEB 13 – Kent State University Qualifier – Kent State College of Aeronautics & Engineering
FEB 13 – Miami University Qualifier – Millet Hall, Miami University
FEB 20 – Kirtland Qualifier – Kirtland High School
MAR 13 – FTC Ohio Championship – Hobart Arena, Troy



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STARBASE Wright-Patt Launches Virtual Reality STEM Upgrades

STARBASE Wright-Patt is taking STEM education to the next dimension! Following a major technology upgrade, participating students can now use Virtual Reality (VR) headsets to step inside molecules, observe chemical reactions to temperature changes, conduct virtual spacewalks, and explore the International Space Station—among many other immersive experiences.

This cutting-edge upgrade ensures STARBASE Wright-Patt remains at the forefront of STEM learning, preparing students for future science careers.

Supported by the DoW, AFRL, and WPAFB STEM Outreach, STARBASE's mission is to expose youth to advanced technological environments and positive military and civilian role models. By delivering 25 hours of exemplary, hands-on STEAM instruction that meets or exceeds national standards, the program builds strong community networks and inspires the next generation of innovators.

Pictured: Local students become the very first to test out the new VR curriculum!



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