



APRIL  
2025

News from the field of the premiere DoD Youth STEAM education program.

## STARBASE Kansas City Receives Generous Support from the Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation, Expanding STEAM Opportunities for Local Students



STARBASE Kansas City is thrilled to announce generous donations from the Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation. These donations will provide students with new opportunities to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Design, and Math (STEAM) through innovative and interactive technology. This support aligns with the Foundation's mission of inspiring young learners to pursue careers in STEM, and it brings valuable resources and mentorship to our program.

The Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation, named in honor of Joseph Pedrotti, is dedicated to advancing educational STEM opportunities for young people. Through their generosity, STARBASE Kansas City has enhanced its curriculum with cutting-edge tools, helping students gain hands-on experience and sparking a lifelong interest in STEAM careers. One of the key donations includes Meta Quest 2 VR Goggles, used during our STEAM Careers section to ignite students' interest in rocketry and space exploration. Additionally, the Foundation has provided a Unitree Go 1 quadruped robot, fondly nicknamed "Scooby," which plays an essential role in our introductory and Spike robotic challenge activities. Scooby helps students see

*(Continued on page 2.)*



"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." --  
Albert Einstein



*(Continued from page 1.)*

firsthand how robotics is applied in real-world settings, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical experience.

Marc Pedrotti, board president of the Foundation, shared the alignment of missions between STARBASE and the Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation: "STARBASE is a wonderful program whose mission to bring 21st Century learning to students aligns directly with the Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation's mission. The STARBASE Kansas City staff does a tremendous job of developing programs and coming up with new ideas to pique students' curiosity. We hope our support helps inspire students to get involved in STEM-based careers."

The Foundation's support goes beyond donations. Board members have served as STEM mentors during STARBASE Kansas City's summer academies. Their commitment to being role models and guides for young learners emphasizes their dedication to nurturing the next generation of innovators, and it makes a lasting impact on our students.

STARBASE Kansas City thanks the Joseph Pedrotti Memorial Foundation and its board members, as this partnership enriches our program and empowers students to envision a future where they can shape the world through STEM. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Foundation to make a difference in our students' lives and inspire tomorrow's STEAM professionals.

## STARBASE Charlotte Hits a Milestone!

STARBASE Charlotte is one of the original STARBASE programs that started in 1993. Since then, many students have participated in the program and gained much more knowledge about STEM and the military than they would have in a regular classroom. Last fall, Casar Elementary students from Casar, NC, celebrated a significant milestone: a total of 55,000 students since 1993.

Over the past 31 years, many STARBASE participants have gone on to join the military or to become scientists, teachers, pilots, and pursue many other professional careers. We take pride in our history of reaching these students and look forward to thousands more. We thank you, Casar, and value our partnership with Cleveland County Schools in helping us achieve this incredible milestone!





# SPARKING FUTURE LEADERS: STARBASE 5th Graders Tour Military Fire Department Careers

This year, for Fire Prevention Week, the Assistant Fire Chief of the Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Fire Department offered to give a daily presentation and tour opportunity to the 5th graders at STARBASE Portland.

This exciting event, aimed at spreading awareness about fire safety in the home focused on smoke alarms, the presentation sparked curiosity and offered an up-close look at the essential work done by military firefighters.

The students were thrilled to learn how fire trucks operate, got to investigate the latest technology available to them, and the students were even able to test out some of this gear themselves!

This tour gave a real-world example of how STEAM integrates into the life-saving work of firefighting; and not only sparked excitement in the 5th graders, but also planted seeds for future careers.

The fire crew discussed real-life emergencies, the teamwork and bravery that the job requires, as well as how STEAM education plays a vital role in keeping their community and nation safe.

Assistant Chief Joshua Gray said, "As the Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention, one of the most rewarding aspects of being a firefighter is the opportunity to educate the young people at STARBASE during Fire Prevention Week. Engaging students in learning about fire safety not only helps them develop life-saving knowledge but also strengthens community trust and awareness. Interacting with kids, answering their curious questions and seeing their excitement, makes a big difference. Demonstrating practical skills, like "Get OUT, and Stay OUT" or checking for smoke alarms, gives them a hands-on understanding of fire safety that stays with them. Knowing that these lessons could one day protect them, or their families add purpose to every session. Teaching fire prevention goes beyond duty; it's a chance to make a lasting impact on future generations."

The impact of this visit will be long-lasting. By introducing students to the real-world application of STEAM, especially in the context of military service, these young minds are now equipped with a broader understanding of the diverse career opportunities that are available to them.

The PANG Fire Department in partnership with STARBASE Portland is helping build up the next generation of leaders who may one day serve both their community and their country in meaningful ways. This tour is a wonderful example of how local military units can contribute to education, community development, and career readiness.





# DoD STARBASE Guam Hosts Third Annual STEM Day



DoD STARBASE Guam hosted its 3rd annual STEM Day on October 5, 2024 at the Agana Shopping Center. As the organization has grown, so has its outreach efforts and partnerships, bringing in new organizations to share the world of STEM with the community.

The event featured many returning groups such as the University of Guam's SeaGrant, Space Grant, and Drone Corps; the National Weather Service; and Guam Homeland Security and Office of Homeland Security. New to STEM Day were the Sihek Recovery Project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the Customs and Border Patrol, all of who shared their expertise in their fields with those who attended the event. Bella Wings Aviation flew their drones around the vicinity, sharing how drones can be used as an efficient tool in executing daily operations and carrying out tasks that might otherwise be too dangerous for the workforce.

The event commenced with a proclamation signing by the Honorable Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Honorable Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, who acknowledged DoD STARBASE Guam's position in the community as an educational academy that has provided services in STEM curriculum to over 3,300 5th-grade students from across the island. In honor of STEM Day, the governor and lieutenant governor declared October as STEM Month and October 11, 2024 as STARBASE Day.

DoD STARBASE Guam first opened its doors on October 11, 2021, and the declaration of STARBASE Day commemorates this day. The declaring of STEM Month was meant to encourage all organizations who are involved in STEM to promote their practices and share with the community the work they do to encourage future generations to consider a job in the STEM workforce—this aligns with DoD STARBASE's mission of providing community outreach in the public as an avenue for the young minds of Guam to explore how their interests, talents, and skillsets can be applied in the real world.

---

## Full Circle at STARBASE OK-Burns Flat

STARBASE Oklahoma-Burns Flat was thrilled to host Mrs. Kayela Selman from Sentinel Elementary School, who recently brought her 5th-grade class to STARBASE! But here's the best part—Mrs. Selman was once a 5th grader at STARBASE herself!

Check out this special picture of Mrs. Selman with her STARBASE name button from all those years ago! It's amazing to see her return as a teacher, sharing the same excitement and learning with her 5th grade students.

Thank you, Mrs. Selman, for bringing your students to explore STEM with us. We're honored to be part of your story and thrilled to help inspire the next generation!



# STARBASE Idaho Brings Robotics Fun to Trunk or Treat Night

Fall is the time of year when the tilt of the Earth brings longer nights and spooky fun. The annual Gowen Field Trunk or Treat was a huge hit, and STARBASE Idaho upheld tradition by bringing home the trophy for “Kids’ Favorite.”

The staff chose the theme of “Inside Out” and dressed accordingly. Our fearless leader, Ripley, was none other than Joy herself. Others joining in on the fun included Deputy Director Mayhem as Ennui, our Office Manager Smalls as Sadness, Instructional Assistants Blockbuster and Queen Ish as Bing Bong and Disgust respectively, and a guest appearance by one of our amazing volunteers as Anxiety.



The staff had a blast getting into their characters and involving the kids in the fun. To prepare, maze boards were constructed from PVC pipe and FLL tables. Trunk-or-treaters were invited to navigate their “core memories” (Spheros) to their places on the memory wall. Kids and parents alike enjoyed learning to control the robot! Over 400 military families participated in this annual event. It was a great opportunity to give back to the Gowen Field community and share what we love with the families of our Soldiers and Airmen. We’re looking forward to future outreach events!



## A Call for Participation

Throughout the year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the DoD STARBASE program. Please share your achievements, success stories, and helpful tips with us at [email@dodstarbase.org](mailto:email@dodstarbase.org).



# STARBASE-U and What it can do for YOU!

STARBASE U is DoD STARBASE's online Learning Management System and is accessible to all program staff. This resource was put in place in FY20 for employees nationwide to ensure information dissemination and provide an area for enhanced training possibilities. It continues to be a vital tool for disseminating and sharing information for the program from the National level. New staff members are enrolled in courses that pertain to their jobs and have immediate access to training videos and resources. Various training courses have been developed and shared with the field throughout the last four years. Here is a quick reminder of a few of the things you can find on STARBASE-U:

- ☐ Video Trainings Located in Various Courses
  - » Community Outreach
  - » Reporting and Data Collection
  - » Supplemental Programming
  - » Digital Tools and Branding
  - » Resource Management Basics
  - » Curriculum Scheduling and Implementation
  - » Inquiry-Based Learning Training
  - » Previous DoD STARBASE Virtual Workshop Recordings
- ☐ Targeted DoDI 1025.07 and other Core Program Documents
- ☐ Operational and Resource Management Site Visit Process and Required Documents Checklist for Current FY
- ☐ Sample Documents and Resources in Various Courses
- ☐ STARBASE Advanced Program Guidance and Curriculum Ideas
- ☐ DoD STARBASE Approved Curriculum and Implementation Guidelines
- ☐ STARBASE Centers of Excellence
- ☐ Director's Questionnaire Working Copy from Previous Year to Plan Annual Data Collection and Reporting Requirements
- ☐ All Copies of the STARBASE Circuit
- ☐ The SPECTRUM Group Contact Sheet
- ☐ Annual Reports
- ☐ Marketing Materials and National Logo



STARBASE-U is an extensive platform equipped with a variety of training resources, documents, and courses. To develop proficiency and efficiency within the system, it's beneficial to explore the site and dig around consistently. Engage with the courses and complete your learning plan to uncover the full range of offerings available to you. The SPECTRUM Group is committed to continually improving and enhancing this tool, so be sure to stay alert for new updates throughout the year. Program staff are strongly encouraged to seek answers to their inquiries on STARBASE-U, as there is a good chance that valuable resources have already been created and shared to assist you in program operations and management.

*(Continued on page 7.)*

(Continued from page 6.)

Program directors should ensure that all staff members are enrolled in the Learning Management System. This can be accomplished through the site's administrative account (sb.program@dodstarbase.org). Instructions for adding, enrolling, and deactivating users can be found in the "STARBASE Account Administrator Training" course. Additionally, all directors should have a separate account dedicated to their role as directors, distinct from the administrator account. If you haven't done so already, please enroll yourself as the Program Director for your site. Please remember that the @dodstarbase.org account should only be used for site administration tasks, such as enrolling and deactivating users and creating learning plans for staff.

---

## STARBASE Advanced Curriculum and Resources

Unlike the Basic DoD STARBASE Program, the Advanced Program does not currently have an approved curriculum, lesson plans, activities, or objectives that must be followed. Any STEAM-related curriculum aimed at middle and high school students can be implemented during this program.

**The curriculum chosen by sites for Advanced program operations is not approved by any committee and are not standardized at the national level.** Many DoD STARBASE programs have worked diligently over the years to refine and enhance their Advanced curricula. STARBASE U has become a valuable resource for sharing ideas and materials related to the Advanced curriculum.

If your program would like to submit curriculum ideas for the Advanced Program to share with other sites, please ensure the following:

- ☐ Your curriculum has been fully implemented and practiced to ensure success.
- ☐ All resources for full execution have been provided and are detailed for replication.
- ☐ Your curriculum has been reviewed and edited for any grammatical errors.
- ☐ Contact information for the submitting site is included in the submission.

For additional guidance and detailed requirements concerning the Advanced Program, please consult the Advanced Program Guidebook and DoDI 1025.07 available on STARBASE-U. When submitting ideas for an Advanced Program, please ensure that they are fully prepared for upload to STARBASE-U and ready for field distribution, requiring no further modifications or additional information.

When your idea is ready for publication, please share it [email@dodstarbase.org](mailto:email@dodstarbase.org) for publication.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

*Engaging in networking and collaboration across the 90 DoD STARBASE programs is strongly encouraged to foster connections and share best practices. However, it is essential to approach forums and sharing platforms with caution. These platforms have not received approval, oversight, validation, or sponsorship from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (OASD M&RA) or The SPECTRUM Group. Therefore, participants should be aware that any information exchanged may not be verified or validated, and discretion is advised when considering the reliability of such platforms for professional interactions and resource sharing.*