

# STEM

[www.usna.edu/stem](http://www.usna.edu/stem)  
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Spring 2026

## UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY STEM CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



### Middle School STEM Day

Over 200 Middle School students attended this day-long event to foster interest in STEM through hands-on activities. USNA Midshipmen led modules in areas including Circuits, Skimmers, Hydraulics, MicroBit, Robotics, and more. This program is offered each semester in conjunction with US Naval Academy Admissions, and through sponsorship from the Office of Naval Research (ONR), Naval Academy Foundation, DoW STEM, and Northrop Grumman.



### NAPS Days at USNA

Over 200 students from the Naval Academy Primary School attended STEM days at USNA. They participated in hands-on STEM modules led by USNA STEM Center Faculty and Staff. Topics included OctoStudio, Catapults, and Electrochemistry. These interactive sessions enhance exposure to STEM topics and to opportunities in STEM fields. Many thanks for the use of Hopper Hall.



### High School STEM Day

Nearly 150 students attended this day of innovation and discovery in a variety of topics. US Naval Academy Office of Admissions, and USNA STEM Center Faculty, staff, mentor volunteers, and Midshipmen, made this day possible. Module topics included Bioterrorism, Tensegrity, Drones, and Cybersecurity. The event also included a Midshipmen-led Career Panel, moderated by the USNA Office of Admissions.



### CMIT Academy STEM Day

USNA Faculty, staff, and 32 Midshipmen traveled to Chesapeake Math & IT (CMIT) Academy North High School to provide an interactive STEM day to 100 students. Midshipmen led hands-on modules including Biofuels, Electrochemistry, Hydraulics, and Robotics. This program was offered through generous support from ONR, Naval Academy Foundation, and DoW STEM.



### SET Sail Educator Workshop

USNA Faculty and Midshipmen provided in-person professional development to nearly 150 K-12 educators in topic areas including Photometer, MicroBit, Friction, and more. Educators received training and curriculum to implement hands-on lessons in the classroom. This twice-yearly program is sponsored by ONR, DoW STEM, and the Naval Academy Foundation, with generous support from Northrop Grumman.



### Astronaut Convocation

Sponsored by ONR, DoW STEM, and the Naval Academy Foundation, nearly fifty high school Sea Cadets attended this annual event which included Rotors, a visit to the Satellite Lab, and a Planetarium Show. The day included attending the USNA Astronaut Convocation. Many thanks to Midshipmen and USNA Faculty and Staff for their support.

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### San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering Expo

USNA Admissions STEM Director Yetanda Massey led a team of six Midshipmen at the San Diego Science & Engineering Expo. The interactive booth included topics of Cryptography and Logic Puzzles, Etching, and Buoyancy. Thank you to Midshipmen Justin Atienza, Arianna Ruiz, Leila Kelley, London Davis, Zhaohua Zhang, and Robert Fry for making the trip a success.



### Washington State Boys & Girls Clubs

Eighteen Midshipmen with the Midshipmen Action Group took their annual Outreach trip to the Pacific Northwest over Spring Break. Visits included Whidbey Island, Everett, and the Lummi Nation Boys & Girls Clubs. During the trip, members worked directly with students, bringing them hands-on STEM modules in Etching, Buoyancy, and Friction, among others, and assisting at the clubs. CDR Kyle Bandermann served as organizer for the event.



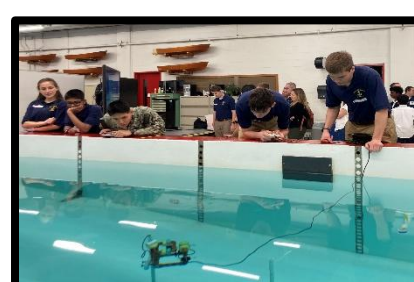
### Jacksonville Best Practices & Educator Workshops

Nearly 50 DoW and non-DoW personnel from commands, affiliated organizations, and schools, in the Jacksonville area and along the East Coast, attended this training which occurred over two days. Topics included Biofuels, Skimmers, and more. Sponsored by DoW STEM, ONR, and the Naval Academy Foundation, this event is designed for newcomers to STEM, and for those seeking to enhance their existing programs.



### STEM Day, Prince George's County Schools

Over 200 high school students with Prince George's County Online Campus attended this in-person day to engage in hands-on modules provided by USNA and STEM Center Faculty, staff, and over 20 Midshipmen. Topics included Hydraulics and Electrochemistry across ten classrooms.



### Maryland SeaPerch Regionals Competition

Sixty-four Middle and High School-aged teams competed for the opportunity to secure a berth at the International Seaperch Competition to be held late-May. Many thanks to Navy Reservists, USNA Faculty and Staff, Alumni, various Commands in the area, and 47 Midshipmen, who supported this event attended by nearly 300 students and coaches. Special thanks to the staff of the Hydromechanics lab for their support and use of their spaces, and to the Multimedia Support Center.



### Navy League Sea Air Space Expo

USNA STEM Center Director CAPT (Ret.) Joseph McGettigan, seven Midshipmen, and Navy Reservist LCDR Allison Dietrich provided STEM activities to the crowd of 3000+ families at the Sea Air Space STEM Expo, organized by the Navy League. A popular stop, the STEM Center booth provided hands-on activities relating to Flight, Electrochemistry, and Logic Puzzles. These events help to raise awareness of U.S. Sea Services, including the Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Merchant Marines.

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### Easy as Pi Day, SAME STEM Day, Baltimore

STEM Center Director CAPT (Ret.) Joseph McGettigan, Associate Director Dr. Sarah Durkin, LCDR (Ret.) Ray Guethler, Kris Endy, and Antje Hlavaty traveled to Baltimore to participate in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) one-day STEM Event for 7th & 8th graders. 75 students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on modules in Hydraulics and Structures in Space. Many thanks to LT Billy Pelger, and Midshipmen Rachel Miller and Jordan Mueller for their assistance.



### STEM Day with Baysox

USNA STEM Center Faculty and staff took part in STEM Day at the Chesapeake Baysox Stadium with local elementary and middle school students in attendance. CAPT (Ret.) Joseph McGettigan, Dr. Sarah Durkin, LCDR (Ret.) Ray Guethler, Antje Hlavaty, and seven Midshipmen provided hands-on activities in Flight, Puzzles, and Electrochemistry. 1/C Midshipman Josie Williams threw out the First Pitch. Give that fan a contract! Many thanks to the Baysox organization for the opportunity to showcase STEM. Go Baysox!



### Building STEPS, Baltimore

STEM Center Faculty and Staff presented a STEM Day at Towson University for Building STEPS Baltimore. Attended by nearly fifty high school students from Baltimore City Public Schools, students experienced hands-on modules in Hydraulics and Electrochemistry. Building STEPS provides students with opportunities for exposure to, and support for, college and career success. An information brief was presented by the USNA Admissions Office.



### International Science and Engineering Fair

Professors Ray Guethler, Jim Cowart, Charles Nelson, and Owens Walker, traveled to Phoenix, AZ to serve as the Navy Judging Team for the 2026 ISEF Fair in support of the Office of Naval Research's Science Awards Program. Celebrating its 76th year, the event drew over 2000 student finalists, and 5000 attendees, to the competition from around the world.



### Maritime Signal Flags

CAPT (Ret.) Joe McGettigan, STEM Center Director, provided hands-on training to students at George T. Cromwell Elementary School regarding Signal Flags. Taught within the Communication Systems classes, CAPT McGettigan provided an engaging presentation about signal flags, their use, and their importance to the Navy. Students had the chance to send and decipher their own communications. Nearly 100 students had the opportunity to participate in this event.



### 1/C Midshipmen Awards

Graduating 1/C STEM Midshipmen Justin Atienza, Chad Bo, and Arianna Ruiz were recognized for their outstanding commitment to STEM educational outreach while at USNA. Chad was awarded the annual USAA Service and Leadership Award in STEM Education and Outreach, and both Arianna and Justin received the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for 500 hours or more of community service. Many thanks, and best of luck!

THANK YOU for your generous support and ongoing acknowledgement of the positive impact these programs have.



DEPARTMENT OF WAR  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION



NORTHROP  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS: Summer 2026

<b>MAY</b>	<b>Summer Heroes Youth Program, USNA, May 26 – June 18</b> <b>SeaPerch Showcase, USNA, May 29</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>Summer STEM Program, USNA, June 3 – 18</b> <b>Sail250 Maryland &amp; Air Show, Baltimore, June 26 – 28</b> <b>The Great American State Fair, Washington, D.C., June 28</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>SET Sail Educator Training, USNA, July 13–23</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>STEM II High School Day, USNA, Aug 29</b>