



www.usna.edu/stem
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Summer 2026

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



Summer Heroes Youth Program

In June, 26 midshipmen mentored over 6000 middle school students from Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Anne Arundel and Prince George's County Schools, Sea Cadets, and the Naval Academy Primary School, through school visits and field trips to USNA. Hands-on modules provided to these groups were made possible through sponsorship from Naval Academy Foundation, DoW STEM, and the Office of Naval Research (ONR). The program fosters student engagement and interest in STEM fields, and promotes leadership for the Midshipmen mentors.



Summer STEM Program

The USNA STEM Center and the Office of Admissions provided a residential program at USNA to nearly 1,000 high school students. Selected through a rigorous application process, the 9th-11th graders engaged in STEM academic sessions, utilizing state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories. Midshipmen assisted USNA faculty in delivering content, as well as project-based instruction, through sponsorship from ONR, DoW STEM, and the Naval Academy Foundation.



SET Sail STEM Educator Training

Two sessions of week-long professional development training brought 100 educators to USNA in July from DoWEA and U.S. schools. The workshop encourages educators to incorporate project-based learning and real world applications in STEM education. This annual program is sponsored by DoWEA, ONR, DoW STEM, and the Naval Academy Foundation, with generous support from Northrup Grumman. Modules included Structures, Thermodynamics, Acoustics, Bioterrorism, and more.



SeaPerch Showcase

Over 400 fifth graders from Anne Arundel County Public Schools showcased their SeaPerch underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) in the USNA Hydromechanics tank, tested buoyancy, and learned about aerodynamics and rockets. STEM Center faculty and staff, Interns, and 26 Midshipmen made the day possible. Many thanks to the staff in the Hydromechanics laboratory, and Technical Support Division, for their time and use of their space.



Summer Interns and TADs

STEM Center Summer programs would not have been possible without the assistance of Summer Interns and TAD Ensigns. Many thanks to: Hannah Aghdam, via UMD Terrapin Teachers, Natalie Swope, via Tulane University, and Savannah Schweitzer and Paulina Utochkin, with Maryland Space Grant Consortium. ENS Mary Casper, Dom DeCastro, Arianna Ruiz, and Adam Walker supported the STEM Center through the summer. Fair Winds!



Sisters Academy

Midshipmen Davina Crump and Margaret Hedberg spent four weeks mentoring middle school students at Sisters Academy in Asbury Park, NJ. During this month-long assignment, the Midshipmen honed their communication and leadership skills, and served as role models when teaching hands-on modules. This annual assignment, organized by the Division of Leadership Education and Development, and supported by the STEM Center, allows the Midshipmen to demonstrate academic success and to expand awareness of STEM-related fields and opportunities.



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USUHS STEM Days

STEM Center Interns Savannah Schweitzer and Paulina Utochkin provided hands-on content to nearly 100 middle and high school students at the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. Teaching over the course of four days, the team exposed students to modules in DNA, Blood Typing, and Bioterrorism, as part of the Science, Service, Mentoring, and Medicine (S2M2) program.



Sail250 Maryland and Airshow

USNA STEM Center Director CAPT (ret.) Joe McGettigan, STEM Center Instructor Antje Hlavaty, and TAD Ensigns Mary Casper, Arianna Ruiz, and Adam Walker provided hands-on STEM content in Buoyancy, Logic Puzzles, and Electrochemistry to attendees at the Sail 250 and Airshow in Baltimore. This multi-day event included a STEM Exploration Zone over the course of three days, hosted by Living Classrooms Foundation.



**Great American State Fair
 Military Appreciation Day**

CAPT Joe McGettigan and TAD Ensigns Mary Casper, Arianna Ruiz, and Adam Walker were on deck at the Great American State Fair in Washington D.C. The group provided hands-on STEM content in Logic Puzzles during Military & Veterans Appreciation Day.



Salisbury Training

CAPT Joe McGettigan and STEM Center Instructor LCDR (ret.) Ray Guethler provided training at Salisbury University to 12 college students from around the state, who currently intern with the Maryland Space Grant Institute. These students, who received hands-on training in Skimmers, will in turn provide STEM Outreach in their locales on behalf of the Space Grant Institute.



St. Louis Air Show & STEM Expo

USNA Midshipmen Leila Kelley, Briana Kim, Benicio Mancebo, and Joaquin Vargas participated in the Spirit of St. Louis Air Show & STEM Expo. These Midshipmen, who volunteer with the USNA STEM Center throughout the Academic Year, attended on behalf of USNA Office of Admissions. They provided hands-on experiences to Expo attendees in Buoyancy, Logic Puzzles, and Electrochemistry.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS: Fall 2026

AUGUST	High School STEM 2, USNA, Aug 29
SEPTEMBER	Oceana Air Show, Virginia Beach, VA, Sept 18 – 19 SET Sail Educator Workshop, USNA, Sept 19
OCTOBER	Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA, Oct 9 – 11 DOW STEM Ambassadors, Washington, D.C., Oct 9 Middle School STEM On Deck, USNA, Oct 17 MSSG Amigo Airshow, El Paso, TX, Oct 24 – 25 NSA Annapolis Star Night, USNA, Oct 25 STEM On Deck, Phelps ACE High School, USNA, Oct 29
NOVEMBER	STEM On Deck, College Park Academy, USNA, Nov 5 STEM Family Night, USNA, Nov 13 MESA Days, JHU APL, Laurel, MD, Nov 17 – 18