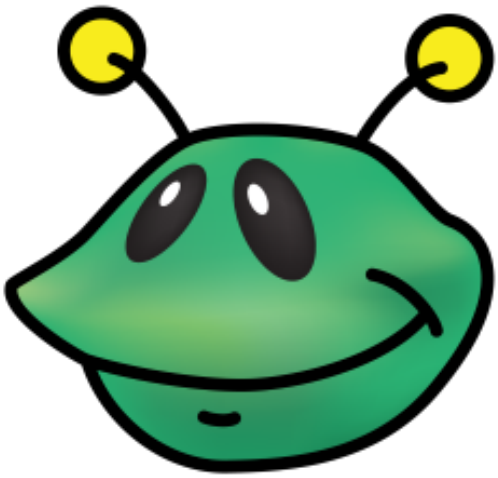
WPAFB

EO NEWSLETTER

STEM OUTREACH

SUPPORTING WORKFORCE READINESS THROUGH STEM OUTREACH.



THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Meet LEGACY Jr. Apprentice Jake

🌍 It's Time to UNEARTH Innovation FIRST LEGO League Season Kickoff!

Looking Forward...

Troops and Treats:

When: October 25
Location: National Museum of the United States Air Force

FIRST Tech Challenge:

- **Central Ohio League Meet 1:**
  - **October 11**
- **Cleveland Metro Scrimmage 1:**
  - **October 21**
- **NEOH League Meet 0:**
  - **October 25**

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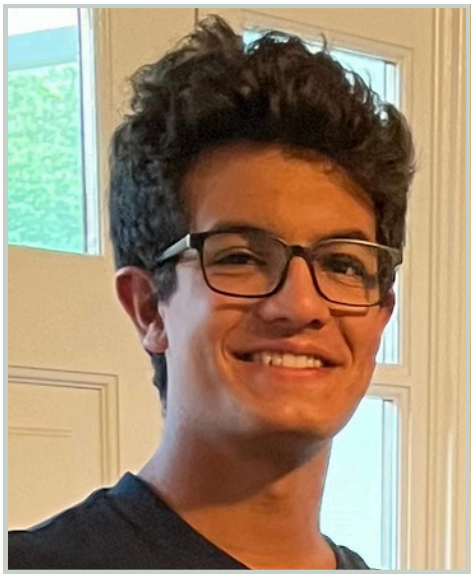

Meet LEGACY Jr. Apprentice Jake

Jr. Apprentice, Jake, has been a part of the Department of Air Force's Leadership Experience Growing Apprenticeships Committed to Youth (LEGACY) program since the Age 15 Craftsman Camps. He attended STEM-focused LEGACY Craftsman Camps and began working as a Jr. Apprentice in the National Capital Region this past summer.

Jake worked at the Naval Air Facility Washington (NAFWA) on Joint Base Andrews with his mentor, Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Robert O'Donnell, USN, where Jake enjoyed seeing the day-to-day operations. A highlight of his summer was getting to tour a C-130 that was parked on the ramp of the building where he was working, and he also got to see F-16s and C130s take off and land. He, along with two other LEGACY Jr. Apprentices, worked to modernize and automate old systems and workflows at NAFWA. "Some of the projects we undertook were automating the creation of the POD (Plan of the Day) and automating the entry of flight hours from two sources (FMRs) into one tracker (the FHCR). Even though it wasn't a traditional engineering project, we did learn how to apply the engineering design process to this project, as we had to figure out the problem, design a solution, test it, and then go back and refine it until we got the solution we wanted," said Josh.

When asked how the Age 15 Craftsman camp prepared him for his summer Jr. Apprenticeship, he said, "I think the Age 15 camp prepared me for a Jr. Apprenticeship through the fun projects we did at camp, like building a vortex cannon, building a car out of random materials to see which one went the furthest, and using a Raspberry Pi to program small circuits. This was particularly helpful because it helped me improve how I worked within a team, which is important to the Jr. Apprenticeship, where you may be working with other people. Another thing that prepared me for a Jr. Apprenticeship was listening to the presentations from older participants to see what opportunities lay ahead."

At his high school, he is involved with the swim team, Physics Club, yearbook photography, and he plays the electric and bass guitars in Jazz Ensemble. He is also a private swim instructor, guitar student, and a Cadet Chief Master Sergeant in the Civil Air Patrol. After graduating from high school, he would like to pursue a career in a STEM field like engineering but is also interested in history and political science.

C-130 tour
left to right: DAF LEGACY Jr. Apprentices Hatim, Jake, Meenakshi with their mentor LCDR Robert O'Donnell

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It's Time to UNEARTH Innovation FIRST LEGO League Season Kickoff!

We're excited to announce the start of the 2025-2026 FIRST LEGO League season — and this year's theme is sure to spark curiosity and creativity like never before. Welcome to UNEARTHED!

This season, teams will journey deep into the past and explore how the treasures of our Earth — from ancient artifacts to fossilized clues — help us better understand our world today. Students will become explorers, scientists, and engineers, using research and technology to uncover and protect the hidden stories beneath our feet.

Whether it's designing tools for excavation, developing innovative ways to study fragile discoveries, or building robots that navigate through simulated dig sites, teams will be challenged to combine history, science, and imagination.

The UNEARTHED season is more than a challenge — it's an opportunity to explore, create, and unearth ideas that can change the world. Whether you're brushing off your bricks or digging into FIRST LEGO League for the first time, there's a place for everyone in this season's adventure. Let's dig in!

Here's what a typical FIRST LEGO League season looks like:

- August–September: Season Kickoff & Team Launch
  - Teams are formed, Challenge Sets arrive, and students dive into the UNEARTHED theme.
- September–November: Project Development & Robot Design
  - Teams begin researching for their Innovation Project and building/programming their LEGO® robots to complete mission challenges on the game field.
- November–January: Qualifier Tournaments
  - Teams share their Innovation Projects, demonstrate Core Values, and compete in Robot Games at local qualifier events.
- January-February: District Tournament
  - Top-performing teams advance to District events to compete and celebrate their accomplishments.
- April–June: FIRST LEGO League Championship & Open Invitationals
  - Select teams represent their region on the international stage at global events.

All photos were taken from LEGO Education

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE