

# STARBASE Connecticut

Fall/Winter 2010

Sponsored by the CT National Guard

DoD STARBASE Website: [www.starbasedod.com](http://www.starbasedod.com)

STARBASE CT Website: [www.starbase-ct.com](http://www.starbase-ct.com)

DoD **STARBASE**  
A Department of Defense Youth Program

## Making Connections

**Connection.** If there is one word to describe STARBASE CT during this past year, it is connection. There is much research to back up the benefits of hands-on experiential learning for students, but the number one reason I believe that the East Hartford, New Britain and Waterbury school districts benefit from STARBASE CT is the sense of **connection** participants receive from the program.

*STARBASE connects students to the actual topics being taught, rather than teaching them to take a test. STARBASE connects school teachers to an irreplaceable teaching resource; one that helps the teachers bring the learning to their students that they want to give, but don't have the resources in the schools themselves. STARBASE connects students to the technologically advanced environment in which they live so that every student, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background, has a chance to succeed in a technological career if they choose. STARBASE connects students and teachers to their community and shows them the contributions of the people around them and to their society; from pilots to engineers*

and from college students to parents.

*STARBASE connects students to the amazing world*

*around them* by sparking their interest in the languages of the world, math and science, and inspiring awe in them for what they discover. *STARBASE helps connect teachers to their own personal inspiration that inspired many of them to teach in the first place.*

STARBASE CT has helped a young man, Gazment Sosoli, connect with his inner skill of computer aided design; now in the eleventh grade now, knows he wants to be an engineer. (See Gazment, p. 4) STARBASE CT has helped a recent STARBASE graduate, Thatcher Crapo (shown in the picture above) connect with his grandfather, Roland "Joe" Crapo Sr. and his own interest in flying (See Young Eagles, p.4).

It is so easy to disconnect from others and what is happening in the world we live in.

**STARBASE is helping to make connections.**



STARBASE CT brings learning alive for over 1500 students annually and creates a higher sense of self esteem in every student that graduates from the program.

# Summer In Hartford

By Diane Gabel

Although July temperatures soared over 90° most of the month, delighted and enthusiastic STARBASE Hartford campers stepped off the bus each day ready for a “cool” day of science adventure at the free STARBASE summer camp.

July 19-23 and July 26-30 STARBASE, Hartford held two, week-long camps from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The students participated in STEM-based STARBASE Olympics, built bird houses, hatched and released Monarch butterflies and even dissected owl pellets! Of course, while at camp, teamwork challenges were built into the schedule and the students cooled off with water balloon tosses after a fierce 3-legged race competition. The favorite activity it seemed was making and chowing down on homemade yummy ice cream (liquid nitrogen is such a blast to work with) and then running through a special sprinkler attached to the Brainard Airport fire truck!

Look for information about this free summer program toward the end of the school year. The program is available, on a first-come, first serve basis, to any East Hartford student entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2011.



# Summer in Waterbury

By Tim Cote

STARBASE Waterbury kicked off our first summer school program. Each camp ran for four days in a row and 14 lucky students came each week for four weeks to Naugatuck Valley Community College.

The STARBASE staff used 6th grade science standards as an outline to create a Science Explorer’s Camp. Utilizing these standards we turned them into a fun hands-on science adventure. Our aim with the summer program was to tap into our students’ natural curiosity and explore the NVCC campus through the lenses of scientists.

Students turned into *Meteorologists* and used our newly purchased weather station to track and predict weather on campus. They became *Biologists and Ecologists* as they tracked and identified plants and animals around our wetlands area. Samples of water were also collected and students analyzed it for pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.

All of our students left the Explorers Camp with homemade thermometers, an Explorer’s Journal with all their data, observations, and illustrations from the week, and new friends to start their 6th grade year.



# STARBASE Mentors

STARBASE Mentors come in all shapes and sizes. Some are in high school or college, some wear a uniform, while others wear suits. We are thankful for all of our STARBASE Mentors and hope to meet many more in the future!

Call or email Melissa if you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be a great mentor.

(860) 728-0090

[melissa.vanek@yahoo.com](mailto:melissa.vanek@yahoo.com)



**Possible volunteer opportunities include:**

- Assisting students on a CAD program
- Assisting students during science experiments
- Assisting students during engineering design activities
- Talking about how STEM is related to your job/career
- Teaching during an after-school mentoring program

**Silver Wings Collaboration,** By Ted Garner

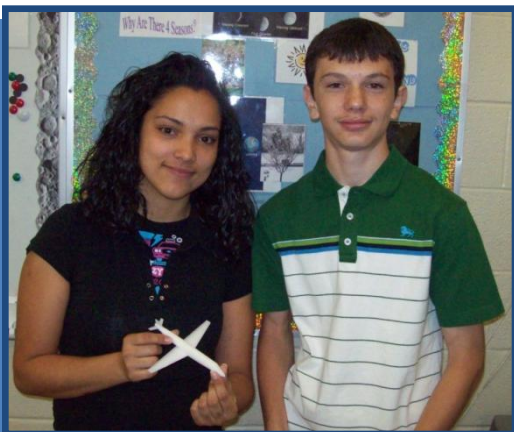
We are happy to announce that we have forged a new partnership with the chapter of Silver Wings at the University of Connecticut. Through our collaboration, we are exposing our students to college students who have various ties to the military and civilian career paths.

The UConn students who visit our classes not only speak with the students about what they are studying in college and the various careers they are looking to explore but they also address importance of hard work and dedication to goals. They also work along side the students helping them in various activities during their visits.

We are happy to have found this industrious group to work with and help further reinforce our message of the importance of hard work and focus on STEM fields to the students with whom we work.



Follow Redbird's blog on  
[www.starbase-ct.com](http://www.starbase-ct.com)!



**Gazment Sosoli, shown above, credits STARBASE for sparking his interest in science.**

## **STARBASE Graduate Competes in Real World Design Challenge**

A former STARBASE graduate, Gazment Sosoli, is now in eleventh grade and attributes STARBASE for his interest in science. Last year, Gazment submitted a design for an airplane through the Real World Design Challenge, an annual competition that challenges high school students to work on real world engineering problems using professional engineering software. This software, Pro/Engineering, is the same software that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who participate in STARBASE are introduced to during the week-long program.

Gazment remembers his time at STARBASE six years ago and said the experience was “great!!” He went on to say that “STARBASE first introduced me to learning about science/engineering and how cool it was.” Gazment says that from that point on, “he came to like things about science.” Gazment fondly remembered *becoming a pilot* as he flew an airplane on the computer; however, he loves engineering and hopes to be an engineer one day.

Gazment is well on his way to becoming an engineer. It seems the spark he had in him for science and engineering was fanned by programs such as STARBASE and the Real World Design Challenge. Maybe someday, we’ll have a chance to fly in an airplane designed by Gazment Sosoli.

Gazment is shown above with his program manager for the challenge who is holding a prototype of the airplane they designed. Gazment visited one 5<sup>th</sup> grade STARBASE class last year to share his interest in engineering and to explain the competition he entered. He stayed to help the students use the Pro Engineering CAD program.

### **STARBASE Students Flying!**

Two STARBASE students were able to fly their own plane during a Young Eagles event in September. The event was put on by members of EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association). Since 1992, more than 1.5 million children have enjoyed a free flight through the program. Payal Patel and Thatcher Crapo joined the privileged group of Young Eagles this year thanks to STARBASE.

Thatcher explained that even though this was his first time flying, he was not scared. He said he had a great time with his grandfather and he loved coming to STARBASE. His favorite activity at STARBASE was related to flying as well – designing and flying straw rockets.

If you know a young student who would like to explore a possible interest in flying, contact Melissa at [melissa.vanek@yahoo.com](mailto:melissa.vanek@yahoo.com).



**Remember to send in any written assignments inspired by STARBASE for inclusion in Reflection Books.**



STARBASE students **explore chemistry** as they use the **scientific method** to conduct, observe and analyze chemical experiments. STARBASE students explore **technology and engineering** using a high profile **CAD program** called Pro Engineer. STARBASE students engage in many **math concepts**, including using **Excel** to make graphs and using **coordinate grids** to **complete circuits**. STARBASE students are **actively engaged** as they learn challenging science and math concepts that will help them understand the world they live in.



## Hey Teachers! Are you interested in Science Fairs?

By Katie Singley



Does your school participate in Science Fairs? Would you like your school to participate? There are many resources available to help you with the process of starting a fair or gathering ideas. There are many kid friendly links that you can provide your students. The links are also beneficial for you and can come in handy when planning your own lessons throughout the school year.

The links listed below are just a few of the many online resources that can be used to help prepare for a science fair (these links are on the Teachers page on our website for you as well):

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/> The Discovery Education Website has easy to complex ideas for students. There is a step-by-step process to follow that is easy to navigate through. There is also a parent's guide on the site for extra support.

<http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide/choosingatopic.html> This website helps students to choose a topic. This website will provide the students with more sites to help gather ideas that are suitable for them and their interests. The site gives tools on how to outline the project and how to show off your project. From start to finish, your students will have online support.

<http://www.teachersource.com/ScienceFairideas/ElementarySchool.aspx> This website lists different subjects in science. There are 5<sup>th</sup> grade CMT lessons such as light and sound.

These are also great websites to help teachers provide fun, hands on learning with science lessons. As always, STARBASE would love to be a support to you and your classes to help with experiments and or ideas. Happy experimenting!