

# United States Air Force STEM 2020 Challenge, Virginia/Maryland/DC

## Take the Air Force STEM 2020 Challenge!

As the world 's leader in Air, Space, and Cyberspace technology, the United States Air Force is committed to encouraging our Nation 's youth towards careers in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). In the year 2020 and beyond, STEM careers will be key to revitalizing innovation and creativity in an increasingly competitive global environment.

Since it 's inception, Airmen in the USAF have been at the leading edge of technological advancement in the Air, Space, and Cyberspace domains. To this end, the Air Force is launching a year-long campaign designed to stimulate interest in STEM careers. Throughout the year, USAF Airmen will be connecting with schools all across the region to discuss the importance of STEM, and the impact it has on the future of innovation in America.

### Write an Essay—Become a Fighter Pilot for a Day!

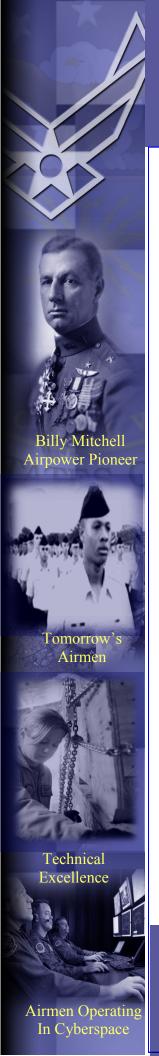
Take the Air Force STEM 2020 CHALLENGE by writing an essay on STEM. The essay contest is for college and high school students in grades 6-12. They will be posed with the following question:

Why are STEM careers important to our Nation?

Winners will be invited to Washington D.C. for a tour of the Pentagon, or a visit to Capital Hill. Top scores will take part in our "Fighter Pilot for a Day" program and fly an F-22 or F-35 fighter jet simulator!

Throughout out the year, USAF Airmen will be reaching out to schools in order to recognize students with the top grade point averages in Science and Math. We look forward to visiting you soon and energizing support for

Students and educators interested in taking the STEM 2020 Challenge or recognizing their top STEM performers can register by sending an e-mail to rsot317@us.af.mil, or contact the our STEM 2020 Challenge Team at (301)567-7025.



## STEM 2020 Challenge (Virginia/Maryland/DC) Essay Contest Rules and Guidance

## Accept the Air Force STEM 2020 Challenge!

The STEM 2020 challenge consists of an essay contest designed to energize interest in STEM careers. Individuals in Virginia, Maryland or Washington D.C. interested in competing must submit an 800 word essay that discusses the following question.

#### Question:

#### Why are STEM careers important to our Nation?

Essay submissions must be a minimum of 800 words in length, and submitted in Word Document format, 12 – pt font, and double-spaced. There will be three categories of judging.

#### Categories:

- 1. 6-8th Grade
- 2. 9-12th Grade
- 3. Educator/College Students

Essays are due Jan 20, 2012 at 4:00 pm. Winners will be announced in February. E-mail essays to rsot317@us.af.mil.

Winners will be recognized in Washington D.C. and provided a tour of the Pentagon, or a Visit to Capital Hill. Top scores will take part in our "Fighter Pilot for a Day" program and fly an F-35 or F-22 simulator!

Winners of the STEM 2020 Challenge will be notified by e-mail of their selection and visit schedule (tentatively scheduled for March 2012). Individuals selected will be responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

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