

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Mission Systems



The competition is designed to ensure students experience the full engineering process. Therefore, it requires them to consider things such as timeline, budget, and materials, as well as competitive aspects such as strategy and evaluation. Because of the professionalism and real-world experience students get out of this program, many local schools have it built into their curriculum and use the challenge as the project that students are graded on. Competitions kick off when volunteers from General Dynamics visit the schools to deliver kits of materials, review budget limitations, and introduce the problem statement to students. Providing these guidelines ensures that the challenge is completed on a level playing field regardless of district funding.

Throughout the duration of the competition, open communication is maintained and regular conference calls are held to allow students to ask questions and brainstorm solutions to any problems they encounter. After three rounds of competition that test different aspects of the device, all teams gather for their final demonstrations at the Boys and Girls Club in Pittsfield, which generously donates the space for the event each year. While one team is selected as the winner, all teams are provided with constructive feedback and encouraged to continue building their skills.

Providing this service for high schools and students in the region is just one example of General Dynamics Mission Systems' commitment to investing and growing in the Berkshires.

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gdmissionsystems.com/en/about-us/community-investment

General Dynamics Mission Systems is a global aerospace and defense company committed to acting locally. Through Community Investment Programs, our employees are able to donate time and funding to causes that improve the quality of life in the communities where they live and work.

Their main goals are to provide support for veterans/military families and to increase the accessibility of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education. Employees are empowered to seek out opportunities to volunteer for community initiatives that offer these supports, and encouraged to submit philanthropic requests for the programs they volunteer within. This dual contribution of volunteer time and funding establishes strong bonds between General Dynamics, their workforce, and their communities.

STEAM Education Competition

For more than a decade, General Dynamics Mission Systems in Pittsfield has hosted high school STEAM competitions, fostering the innovative spirits of future engineers. These competitions connect General Dynamics with local high schools and enable engineers to provide quality STEAM education and instruction to students. The most recent challenge tasked students with building a crane that could retrieve objects from within a minefield, stack blocks to build a tower, and destroy a tower and retrieve an object from the rubble. Aptly named "Operation Rescue Crane," it was a major success with 41 participants competing across 10 teams hailing from 5 different schools.



#BusinessIsGood

General Dynamics has grown consistently for nearly 20 years in Pittsfield, from approximately 500 Pittsfield-based employees in 1997 to over 1,400 today, in addition to hosting 60 paid interns annually. Because General Dynamics is part of the traded sector industry (industries and companies who produce goods and services that are consumed outside of the Berkshires) the company's growth impacts the Berkshires in two ways. First, the increase in jobs helps to attract and retain new and existing Berkshire County residents and second, the growth also acts as an economic multiplier, creating additional jobs in the region. For this reason, the impact of increasing 900 General Dynamics jobs can also be calculated as increasing 1800+ jobs in the Berkshires.