

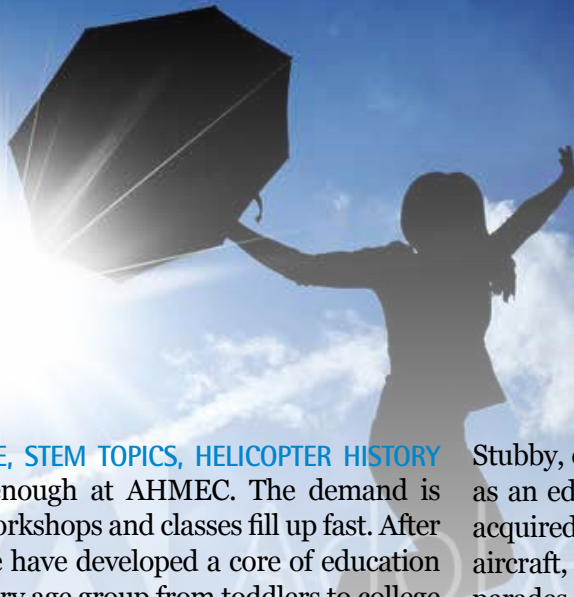
american helicopter
museum & education center



vertika

www.americanhelicopter.museum | 610.436.9600

FALL 2018



LEAPS & BOUNDS

HELICOPTER SCIENCE, STEM TOPICS, HELICOPTER HISTORY - kids can't get enough at AHMEC. The demand is overwhelming. Workshops and classes fill up fast. After more than 20 years, we have developed a core of education programs that serve every age group from toddlers to college students. The 2016 renovation expanded our teaching spaces to enabled the Museum to serve multiple groups at one time.

A key element in the AHMEC mission is education and we deliver with group tour presentations called Science of Helicopters; Stubby Traveling Helicopter outings; Robotics, Astronomy and Home School Workshops; STEAM Toddler Story-Time; Science Saturdays; West Chester Middle School Partnership; and our signature program, Girls in Science and Technology (GIST) Program.

For many years, the group tour Science of Helicopters programs were the only education offerings at the Museum. They are still the foundation from which all other programs arise and an essential driver of enrollment in our other programs. Annually, over 3,000 students visit the Museum and learn about helicopters. Of these, 860 students were admitted free in our Fund A Field Trip program.

Stubby, our Mobile Exhibit and Ambassador has also served as an education tool for a long time. In 1998, the Museum acquired the Hughes 269A, restored and modified the aircraft, sent him out on the road to schools, fairs, camps and parades and Stubby has been entertaining audiences ever since. Stubby is "flown" by more than 3,000 students each year and over 45,000 see him in parades.

In 2010, the Girls in Science & Technology Program (formerly Women in Aerospace and Technology, WATP) was launched with an enrollment of 40 girls. A STEM enrichment and multi-level mentoring program for girls in grades 3 to 12, the enrollment grew to 65 girls in 2016. The projected enrollment for the 2018-2019 session is 100 girls, 16 college student mentors who teach classes to the younger girls and 18 University and Corporate representatives serving as Mentors mentoring Mentors

A newer addition to the AHMEC Education Program include The West Chester Middle School Partnership which kicked off 3 years ago to teach every 7th grade student about air foil and blade design. "Fulfilling our education mission out in the community is a direction that we have planned for a long

(cont'd from page 1)

time," says Executive Director Sarah Sands. "Our next goal is to expand to the 8th grades."

This past year, a workshop series was offered in topics such as Robotics, Kitchen Science and Astronomy. These sold-out intensive one-day workshops give boys and girls a taste of hands-on STEM learning. Plans are underway to add more sessions of these workshops and new topics in 2019.

"The sky's the limit as far as growth in our programs," says Education Program Manager Paul Kahan. "GIST and our workshops could double in enrollment: we would be thrilled and we could handle it."

While growing pains are normal in any program expansion, the museum is fortunate that these are minimal. "The infrastructure is here in terms of curriculum and space," says Sands. "Our enrollment capability is unlimited. The only thing that would hold us back is funding." A program fee is charged to each student but it does not cover the cost of materials, salaries and other expenses to conduct the kind of quality programming that is the hallmark of AHMEC.

"Our AHMEC Education programs are growing by leaps and bounds," Sands adds. "I hope our generous constituents will continue to donate to help us get kids excited about science."

#215636522



Chairman's Message



THE PERIOD BETWEEN LABOR DAY AND NEW YEARS IS FILLED WITH NUMEROUS HOLIDAYS, both religious and secular. The American Helicopter Museum also has reason to celebrate. Our finances are healthier now than they have been in a long time. Under the leadership of Executive Director Sarah Sands the staff have greatly increased our museum rentals, education programs and gift shop sales. We also benefited from the sale of a Delage automobile, which was a wedding gift to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Piasecki.

However, we recognize that good fortune can be transitory and we cannot rest on our laurels. Based on our recently completed 5 year strategic plan, the Board of Trustees has developed a series of 21 specific actions that will make the museum more appealing to both new and returning visitors, attract more volunteers, expand our support from both Corporations and individual donors, increase our education and community outreach efforts and better serve Veterans.

Some examples of the improvements we are working on are:

- **Audio/video guides to explain the various exhibits and provide background stories.**
- **Welcome video to relate the history of helicopters and provide an overview of the museum.**
- **Rotating exhibits to provide something fresh each time someone visits.**
- **A film/speaker series at regular intervals to add another dimension to the museum experience.**

This is just a small sample of exciting things we hope to bring to AHMEC over the next year. I look forward to welcoming you to the museum. It is one of the unique treasures of the Delaware Valley.

Best Regards,

Marc Sheffler

helicopter highlights

GALA 2018



FATHERFEST 2018





**AMERICAN
HELICOPTER**
MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

In the Heartland of Helicopter Innovation

1220 American Blvd. | West Chester, PA



www.americanhelicopter.museum | 610.436.9600

Staff

Sarah Sands | *Executive Director*

Paula Stevens | *Volunteer Coordinator*

Jan Feighner | *Bookkeeper &
PR Coordinator*

Connie Eckert | *Sales Manager*

Aura Kovach | *Gift Shop Assistant*

Chris Beggs | *Museum Assistant*

Jim Emmi | *Mobile Exhibit "Stubby" Driver*

Paul Kahan | *Education Program Manager*

If you would like to be added to our email list,
please email info@americanhelicopter.museum.

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The **1996 Legacy Society** recognizes
those who have remembered AHMEC in their will.



Raymond & Penny Bowman

Marc & Sylvia Sheffler

Fred Mack

Lawrence Husick

Derek Hart

Richard Davis

*If you have indicated a bequest or other
planned gift in your will, please let us
know so we can add you to our list.*

Calendar of Events Fall 2018

DEC 8, 2018 **SANTAFEST** – 10am - 1pm. Helicopter rides start at
11:30pm.

Board of Trustees

Marc Sheffler, *Chair*

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