Submitted to Speaking of Science by Bayou State Starbase at North Iberville. This example is provided as an informational resource.

Guidelines for a successful presentation at STARBASE

- DOD STARBASE is a national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program, with the goal of raising the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of at-risk youth in STEM, which will provide for a highly educated and skilled workforce that can meet the advanced technological requirements of the Department of Defense. The US is in great need for a pool of talented and skilled workers. In response to this national STEM crisis, STARBASE creates an environment to actively engage students in explorations of STEM content to excite their interest, develop a solid concept base, and encourage them to pursue these fields in their future careers.

- STARBASE students are in the 5$^{t\ th}$ grade; they are 10 – 11 years old. Born in 2008, these children are just being introduced to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in school.

- You as a speaker can bring your experiences and show how these topics are applied in your field. You can help students understand that STEM is all around them in everything they see and do. Pursuing excellence in STEM is critical in preparing them for the challenges of the 21st Century and beyond. Show them something that makes the topic real and connects their knowledge with your world. Understanding how you apply STEM in everyday situations makes an important connection between their classroom lessons and activities and applications in the real world. You can do this through hands-on demonstrations of experiments or products, showing off software you may have developed or need to use as part of your job, present video clips, and provide images and diagrams to explain ideas. The points below may help you plan your discussion:

    1. Share what your career involves and describe the tasks and activities you do each day.
    2. Share the steps you took to achieve success in your career.
    3. Give an example of how Stem is used in your job.
    4. Give an example of how you solve problems on the job.
    5. Give examples of how you utilize collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication.
    6. Share the pitfalls students can avoid that may prevent them from pursuing their career choice.
    7. Suggest positive actions that the children can take now that may help them prepare for the future.
    8. Point out that you had to take a challenging or meaningful curriculum.
    9. Answer any questions the students may have for about 10 minutes after your presentation.

- Feel free to engage students by asking questions. The most successful types of questions are polling questions (show by raising hands). Asking questions about what they know and what kind of experiences they have with the topic can help you gauge the student level.

- We all know people who are successful without completing a degree or having even dropped out of high school. But for the majority of students participating in STARBASE, they need someone in authority to inspire them to stay in school and work toward post high school education. Students sometimes have selective hearing and you do not want to inadvertently become the excuse for a student deciding they don't need to finish school.

- You can only prepare so much before the presentation becomes rigid and has the risk of breaking when the unexpected happens. Be yourself and talk from your heart and passion.

- If you need to refer to an organization, process, standard, or market or military lingo and acronyms, you will want to spell it out and explain what it is. Default to explaining what a term is if you are not sure

they would know.

- We recommend you stay away from religion and politics.
- Leverage your company's digital assets by asking your marketing department for them. You do not have to create everything from scratch.
- Avoid showing videos that are overtly sales oriented, or substitute for things you can say yourself. The kids want to hear from you. A great use of video is showing a location like an assembly plant or a physical or natural phenomenon to explain a concept.