

District I

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Educational outreach is a wonderful way to expand the hobby beyond the “hobbyists,” influence community members, and inspire the next generation of STE(A)M (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) innovators through aeromodeling. Associate Vice President (AVP) Daren Hudson describes how we are pursuing this educational outreach in the following report:

Academy is our organization’s first name, and education is in our DNA. Reaching out with open minds and out-of-the-box thinking provides numerous opportunities to maximize success for educators, students, and newcomers to this versatile STE(A)M educational tool.

Typical hurdles include creating easy access for teachers (often non-modelers) to varied and flexible methods and curricula to accomplish goals within their limited timeframes and needs. Teacher training for basic knowledge and skill-sets to use with students while being mentored by AMA members and clubs is one technique.

AMA instructors or mentors facilitating basic



A photo from the Rye Junior High School’s STE(A)M program where teams learned multiple skills building and flying foam board Cubs. Curriculum development is ongoing.



Drone Soccer is played inside a netted area for safe, dynamic gameplay that fits inside any school gym.

training on smaller, electric trainer aircraft with buddy boxes, SAFE technologies, and simulators work best. The AMA safety code and guidelines should be incorporated, but should be centered around classroom, indoor, and schoolyard-size venues. When teachers reach basic instructor levels, the AMA instructors might transition to mentor roles and supporting programs.

By reaching out to your district volunteer leaders and the AMA Education department, you will find support and numerous resources. A great ice-breaker video is Total Control, using the Foam Plate Glider 9 along with other tools that can assist educators.

The key is understanding the teachers’ perspectives and adapting to their challenges, while including flexible uses of AMA safety and educational programming and your own brainstorming to utilizing all types and disciplines of aeromodeling to hook the interest of the students.

On the subject of flexibility and various types and disciplines, enter Drone Soccer! It’s an interesting possibility and one of AMA’s newest SIGs. The concept is designed to culminate with teams and competition. District I is actively pursuing the acquisition of a “demo bundle” to introduce this fun, exciting option as an additional arrow for an educator’s quiver of STE(A)M tools.

To maximize opportunities for success, remember to remain flexible, think outside the box, think from the teacher’s and student’s perspective, and always make it fun!

Your AMA District I leadership, AMA’s Education Department, and AMA Flight School are all here to help you reach out. Enjoy and good luck.

Thank you, Daren, for this report and for heading up the STE(A)M efforts in District I as well as participating in AMA’s national educational initiatives. 



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