Pre-Camp 2021

NEWSLETTER

Opening Curious Young Minds
Ryan McDonald, MSSM Summer Programs Director, is originally from warm Georgia and came to MSSM in July of 2016. Until that point, Washington D.C. was the farthest north he had been. He has been camp director since 2018 and was an instructor at the 2017 camp. His hobbies include anything computer related and tinkering in his shop.

Tracy Moore, Summer Camp Coordinator, is originally from Massachusetts and came to northern Maine in 2013 and with camp since 2016. She also serves as Executive Assistant to the E.D. for the school. In a previous life, she owned an educational reptile business where she and her husband had shows at schools and libraries around the northeast. She is the main contact for registration and administrative issues at camp and can be reached at 207-325-3601.

Matt Bartlett, Summer Camp Residential Director, comes from Danforth and is currently a Senior Residential Instructor. He has been working with the camp since 2016. He is the main contact for dorm related issues at the camp and can be reached at 207-540-6013.

Janice E. Scott, Director of Health Services, is originally from Dallas / Fort Worth Texas, but has lived in northern Maine for 15 years. She brings several skills to summer camp such as a Master of Science in Nursing and a diverse background including urgent care, primary care, and inpatient care. She’s married with two grown children and enjoys boating, kayaking, fishing, and the beach / snowmobiling depending on the season. Feel free to email her at scott.janice@mssm.org with any questions or concerns.
Thank you so much for all that you have done the last 3 years for my daughter! She cried when we picked her up as she didn’t want to leave her new friends!

She talked our ear off the whole 4.5 hour trip home about her amazing classes, all that she learned, and extra activities. She then spent the remainder of Saturday FaceTiming her new friends and talking about their fun together. She has made arrangements to meet up with some next week and is already saying she is staying 2 weeks next year and hopes to attend school there some day.

I do hope you and your staff understand what a difference you make in the lives of these young minds;

I cannot thank you enough.

-M.C.
Camp Activities & Theme Days

- Super Hero Day
- Camp Pride
- Monster Night
- Mega Slide
- Family Olympics
- Wacky Wednesday
- Tie Dye
- GaGa Pit
Things to Bring and to NOT Bring to Camp

**Peanut Products**
We always have a few campers with severe peanut allergies and this is the hardest thing to restrict. It’s best not to send many snacks with the campers since we provide them daily. We will NOT be walking down to Mike's Family Market this year. If you do send snacks, please check and double check the label carefully for peanut products. Any snacks containing peanut products will need to be confiscated at check in and returned at the end of camp.

**Electronics**
We are trying to get campers to meet new people, not stay in their rooms fixated on their gaming devices. There’s also a chance expensive laptops or tablets could break or get misplaced. **Cell phones are not prohibited**, but are discouraged. We have phones to call in and for campers to call out. They are prohibited in the academic building during classes. **We do prohibit any large game system.**

**Sugary Food & Money**
Sugary and caffeinated food and drinks: Kids need a good night’s sleep and some will have roommates. It is recommended that campers not bring these items.

Money: There’s almost no reason for campers to have money this year. Usually we go to Mike’s Market, but not this year and usually the bus stops for lunch, but again not this year. We will have snacks in the dorm and packed lunches/snacks on the bus.

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**Postcard Addresses**
We will have some stamped postcards for campers to use, but please send along some addresses that they might want to use. There has been a delay in the past when a camper addressed a postcard to “Mom” and had the address as “Portland”.

**Clothing for Theme Days**
It’s not mandatory, but many campers dress up on theme days. There are prizes for camp families with the most participants. The days may change, but the themes are: **Camp Pride** (Wear the provided camp shirt), **Sports Day, Wacky Wednesday, Super Hero Day** (to counteract Monster Night, this year Halloween in July)

**Things for the Room**
For those riding the bus, please pack light this year. ALL luggage must be kept in the same seat with one person per seat. Some campers bring a fan and alarm clock.

**Business Cards?**
Obviously, the kids don't have real ones, but any way to easily pass out contact info to other campers. In the past, we included a full camper directory at the end of camp, but we don't do that anymore. Perhaps we are old and don't realize they would just touch phones and transfer their life history through Snap Chat.

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**What Is Monster Night?**

On Thursdays, the staff dress as monsters and sit around the dorm. Each station has a challenge and when completed, the camper group gets their sheet signed. There have been some creative stations such as Julia (left) quizzing campers about music and Chris (right) built a puppet named “Audrey II” from Little Shop of Horrors. Kids had to throw food in the plant’s mouth when answering questions.

**This year Monster Night will also be Halloween in July.**
Packing List

Twin sized sheets
Blankets OR sleeping bag
Pillow
Toiletries for shower
Towel
Sneakers
Shoes that can get wet
Sweatshirt/sweat pants
Light jacket / sun block / bugspray
Jeans / shorts
Socks / Underwear
T-Shirts
Addresses for letter / postcards

Bathing suit
(if interested in pool or waterslide)

Books / Stuffed Animal
Small fan / Alarm Clock

We Provide:
Camp T-shirt
Pen
Postcards with stamps

There is a laundry facility on site, but it uses a card with a $5 minimum.

Optional:
Talent show equipment
Theme Day attire
Night light
Dungeons & Dragons / MTG accessories

If riding the bus, there will be one camper per seat with all their luggage also in that seat. Please consider packing light.
The classes are what set us apart from other summer camps. We don't have archery or canoeing, but we keep kids academically stimulated during the summer. Our classes have no grades or homework and kids don't need to know anything about the topic to enjoy it.

**Welcome to Mars:** Campers will assume the roles of colonists on a mission to terraform Mars and build a habitable base. Working together on the same world in a modified version of Minecraft, they will become specialists as they solve problems to bring food, oxygen, solar power, and shelter to their colony.

**3D Printing:** Students will learn the best strategies for designing 3D models that can be printed using 3D printers. If you can imagine it, you can create it.

**Locked in a Room at MSSM:** Are you a problem solver? Do you like challenges? In this class we will look at escape rooms, how to design them, what makes them interesting, and how to crack them!

**Return of the Rocket:** Campers will reach for stars in ongoing construction of model rockets. Besides assembling their kits for flight and fire, all “rocketeers” will receive background enrichment to better understand our place in space past, present, and future.

**Astronomer’s Toolbelt:** All campers need this necessary sash for literally carrying and sharing their own tools to explore the Universe. Daily ongoing hands-on astro craft will offer a fine line of useful belt loops necessary to study constellations, understand starlight, prepare for eclipses, and more telescopic wonder.

**Board Game Design:** Do you like playing board games? Join this class to examine board games and the math and strategies behind them. What makes a good game? What types of games are there? At the end of the week not only will you know about games, but you’ll also have the opportunity to create your own board game to bring home and share with your friends.

**Calculus in a Week:** We are going to blast through calculus in a week! In this whirlwind tour of mathematics, we are going to take a few functions and learn how to take limits, derivatives and integrals. Don’t know what those are? You will at the end of the week!

**LEGO Robotics:** Work in small teams to design, build, and test a robot. We will be using Lego EV3 kits to overcome obstacles and outsmart opponents. The exact challenge is up to the students to pick but the instructor will ensure that it is, in fact, a challenge. There will be a focus on problem solving, teamwork and innovation. This course is 100% hands-on.

**You Can Do the Cube:** We will look at the math behind the cube, the algorithms, and you will learn how to solve the cube! Then students will choose a mosaic for the class to work on and by the end of the course we will have made a large mosaic made entirely from Rubik’s cubes!

**Computer Programming:** No experience necessary. This will cover the basics of computer programming to design and develop a simple game. We will be using a language called Processing (based on Java) which is great for making interactive animations. Students will go home with their project and the tools to continue working.

**Discover Data Science through Injuries:** You may have heard stories about football and concussions, but are you really more likely to get hurt playing sports than doing other activities? Is it possible that other leisure activities are more dangerous, and if so, which ones? In this program, you will explore datasets about all kinds of injuries serious enough to require medical care, and also dig into a dataset about injuries that relate specifically to sports. We have the data—you ask the questions!

**Girls’ Week 1 ONLY**

**Disease Data Detectives:** Want to have fun learning about the fascinating science and data science behind the COVID-19 pandemic and other diseases? In this program, you will read The Case of the COVID Crisis by Dr. Pendred Noyce, which follows the adventures of two kids, Mae and Clinton, as they travel through time to find out about epidemics. You’ll do a lot of activities where you explore disease data from a range of epidemics.

**Girls’ Week 2 ONLY**
Social Media

You want to see photos of your camper. We know that. Make sure you follow us on Facebook and Instagram and check out our Camp Blog.

https://www.facebook.com/MSSM.org/

https://www.instagram.com/mssmpenguins/

MSSM on YouTube