



2025 SUMMER SCIENCE ACADEMIES

JUNE 23 - 27 NATURE'S ARCHITECTS

Animals are instinctual builders! Whether a beaver dam, a bird's nest or a spider web, all of their creations amaze with their detail, functionality and beauty. But why do animals build? And how do they do it? Learn about the different types of architects you find in the Animal Kingdom, and how the different structures they build meet their unique needs. Hike the Flanders campus to look for and analyze these creations. Work in building teams, designing and creating models that mimic animal structures or that can actually be used by certain animals to meet a survival need. Share your creations in a final presentation. **AGES 8-10**



JULY 21 - 25 WILDLIFE AT NIGHT

A world of beauty, drama and survival unfolds while we sleep. Mammals like bobcats, black bears, opossums, skunks and others inhabit our forest. Evidence of their presence is sometimes seen in the form of tracks, scat or other signs. But nothing compares to the evidence caught on a trail camera! Become a trail camera sleuth! Learn how the cameras work through thermal energy transfer, how and where to set a camera up, and how to analyze camera trap data. Set up cameras in the forest then see what surprises they capture. Use camera trap data to answer research questions about behaviors of your favorite animal and share your findings with a creative presentation. **AGES 8-10**



AUGUST 18 - 22 AMAZING ANIMALS

Through the study of domestic animals and wild animals, students learn that animals all share certain survival needs, and meet those needs in different ways. They investigate external parts of different animals and discover that each part has a function that helps in survival and that the shape of the part is related to that function. In a final project, students act as engineers and identify a problem to solve using biomimicry of an animal or animal part. Using available materials, they build a model of their new invention. **AGES 6-8**



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