

Science Matters

Summer 2025 Course Descriptions



We are so excited for this summer! Below are the course descriptions for each classroom for each week. Topics vary from week to week and from classroom to classroom. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kristen Jackson at jacksk6@auburn.edu.

June 2 - 6

Curious Curators (5th - 7th graders) - AU Museum of Natural History (AUMNH)*

Why do we have natural history museums? Why are they important? How do they grow? From field to museum, you will explore our local biodiversity, make collections, and learn how to curate them. You will explore swamps, streams, forests, and grasslands for all plants and animals and even some fossils. Each student will keep a field journal where they will write the stories of their field experience. They will have a new appreciation for the diversity of the region and the scientists that study it!

This camp takes place in conjunction with the AU Museum of Natural History and is different from a traditional Science Matters camp. **This camp is recommended for students that enjoy being in nature and are independent learners. Students will primarily be outside doing fieldwork side-by-side with museum staff and class time will take place within the museum.*

5th grade students are only permitted to attend one week of Curious Curators.

Weeks 2-6 Continued on next page

June 9 - 13

I Dig Dinosaurs! (1st - 2nd graders) - Heather Cowell, Amy Wall

You dig, I dig, we all dig dinosaurs! Grab your shovels and let's search for fossils – once we find them, we'll study their size, characteristics, and footprints to help us identify the different types of dinosaurs that once roamed our planet. We'll investigate what dinosaurs eat and how they all lived together happily ever after. This is one enormous adventure as we dig deeper and analyze our findings about these great creatures from long ago and we will look at where did they go?

Can you Dig it? (3rd - 4th graders) – Kaila Sutterfield

Paleontology, archeology, geology... oh my! It's time to grab your hard hat and get digging. We will learn all about life in the past from bones, fossils, rocks, and artifacts we may find! Let's dig in and have a blast learning about our past!

Jurassic Exploration (5th – 6th graders) – Nicole Engleman

Get ready for an epic journey into the world of dinosaurs and the mysteries of our planet! This week is packed with hands-on science, creative activities, and outdoor adventures as you dig into fossils, crack open rocks, and uncover the secrets of prehistoric life. Discover how Earth's coolest creatures lived and explore the forces that shaped the planet in a way that's fun, exciting, and totally unforgettable!

Curious Curators (4th - 5th graders) - AU Museum of Natural History (AUMNH)*

Why do we have natural history museums? Why are they important? How do they grow? From field to museum, you will explore our local biodiversity, make collections, and learn how to curate them. You will explore swamps, streams, forests, and grasslands for all plants and animals and even some fossils. Each student will keep a field journal where they will write the stories of their field experience. They will have a new appreciation for the diversity of the region and the scientists that study it!

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5th grade students are only permitted to attend one week of Curious Curators.

June 16-20Camp will take place on the Juneteenth holiday**

Out of this World! (1st - 2nd graders) – Sarah Barker, Mallory Goodson/Wall

Get ready to BLAST OFF into a week of engaging space and astronomy exploration. Students will circle the universe, stargaze into the next galaxy, and partake in exciting missions. Through teamwork and problem solving we will learn and create projects that have our creativity soaring out of this world!

Space Odyssey (3rd - 4th graders) – Amy Wall

3---2---1 Blast Off! This space shuttle is taking off to tour the solar system where we'll study the terrestrial (inner) and Jovian (outer) planets plus the Earth, Sun, and Moon. Mission control will also steer us towards comets, meteor showers, and asteroids as we follow our flight plan through space. Join us as we soar through the final frontier zooming around nebulas and escaping black holes.

Astro Adventures: Exploring the Universe (5th - 6th graders) – Hunter Herrick

Blast off into a week of cosmic discovery at *Astro Adventures*! Designed for curious fifth and sixth graders, this exciting summer science camp explores the wonders of space exploration. Campers will build model rockets, explore the stars, and conduct different experiments that can relate to space life. With hands-on activities and interactive lessons, young explorers will develop a passion for science while reaching for the stars. Join us for an unforgettable journey into the mysteries of the universe!

June 23-27

Ride the Science Coaster! (1st - 2nd graders) – Ashley Hunter, Sarah Barker

Ready to dive into the exciting world of science and see what makes amusement park rides so thrilling? Join us for an amazing journey where we'll design and build our very own roller coasters, Ferris wheels, and more! In this action-packed class, you'll discover the science behind your favorite rides. You'll learn how the twists, turns, and heart-stopping drops of amusement park rides are all powered by science!

Magic Makers: Adventures in Creativity and Wonder! (3rd - 4th graders) – Hunter Herrick, Amy Wall

Get ready to explore the art of storytelling, design, imagineering, and innovation in this exciting summer camp for third and fourth graders! Build thrilling roller coasters, create animated characters, and uncover the secrets of special effects as you bring your own magical ideas to life. Come join us as we hop on the magic carpet and enjoy the thrilling ride through hands-on experiments and imaginative challenges. Throughout our journey you'll discover how science, technology, engineering, art, and math combine to make the extraordinary possible!

July 7-11

Storybook Puzzles (1st - 2nd graders) –Sarah Barker, Morgan Darwin

Hickory dickory 4-15-3-11. The mouse ran up the...puzzle?!? Join us for a week of fairy tales, nurse rhymes, and puzzles as we complete STEM challenges and math puzzles relating to some of our favorite stories. You may even get a chance to piece together your own puzzling tales!

Storybook STEM (3rd - 4th graders) – *Shelby Wall*

Once upon a time, in a laboratory far, far away... join us on a STEM adventure as we create solutions to problems from some of our favorite books. Build a suspension bridge to help Barnum's circus elephants cross, design your dream house, and rescue a stranded pirate. Learn how science can save the day!

Math is Everywhere! (5th - 6th graders) – *Pamela Gaylor*

Fibonacci, Fractals, Polygons...and more! Discover all the mathematical patterns and shapes that make up our natural world and beyond. Create your own mathematical designs, solve puzzles, and play games to dive into the world of math that exists all around us.

July 14-18

Under the Sea (1st - 2nd graders) – *Sarah Barker Morgan Darwin*

Under the Sea is the place to be! Grab your goggles as we dive in to explore the different parts of the ocean, the creatures that live there, how the ocean moves, and the important role it plays for our planet. Let's make some waves as we learn about the fascinating world under the sea!!

Ocean Odyssey (3rd - 4th graders) – *Shelby Wall*

Whales, sharks, and dolphins...This is just the beginning of what the ocean world has to offer. Dive in as we explore the ocean's tidal currents, coral reefs, and life on the ocean floor, watch out for jellyfish! Grab your goggles and flippers as we begin our descent into the deep blue sea!

Dive into the Deep Blue Sea (5th – 6th) – *Daniel Fant*

Whales, sharks, jellyfish, and sea turtles... these are just a few of the incredible creatures that call the ocean home. Dive in with us as we explore the wonders of the sea, from animal adaptations, ecosystems, to the mysterious layers of the ocean and powerful tidal currents. Grab your snorkel and get ready for an exciting adventure as we journey into the deep blue!