

UNEARTH ADVENTURE

with

SUMMER FUN

May 26 – August 21

**13 Weeks of Hands-On Science
Camps for Youth Pre-K
Through Rising 9th Grade**



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science
center
2026

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Summer Fun

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CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Location

Summer Fun activities are primarily located in the West Education Building on the SALT Block campus. SciFun classes are held in the classrooms of this building or Glenn C. Hilton, Jr. Memorial Park for our Nature Fun classes. Any offsite class field trips will be noted in the class description. During Sunrise Science and Afternoon Adventures campers will have a “home base” room, but may also be in CSC exhibit areas or outside on the SALT Block grounds. Afternoon field trips off the SALT Block grounds will take place according to the weekly schedule provided on the first day of camp every week.

Camp Schedule

A weekly schedule will be available on the first day of camp each week. This will have all the information you need to plan for the week and to pick up your child.

Camp Cost

The prices of SciFun classes vary. Please see the class description and the cost of each SciFun class, starting on page 3. Please see page 2 for the cost of Sunrise Science and Afternoon Adventures programs.

Extended Day

For campers attending Afternoon Adventures, additional details will be included with the confirmation letter emailed to parents. **After 5:30 pm, a \$1 per minute per child late fee will be charged.**

Check-In/Sign-Out Policy

All children must be checked in and signed out by a parent or authorized adult. All check-in takes place inside the West Education Building. For the security of all children, SciFun pickup will take place in the same location as check-in unless your child’s classroom has an exterior door. For Afternoon Adventures, you must call to have your child brought to the lobby of the West Education Building. Parents with special needs may ask for exceptions to this procedure. Please call the office to reach CSC’s Public Programs Coordinator to make advance arrangements. Parents or guardians must have proper documentation to pick up their child.

Lunches & Snacks

Children participating in Sunrise Science are encouraged to bring a small snack. Campers attending the Summer Fun Afternoon Adventures must bring a bag lunch, drink, and an afternoon snack. Microwave and refrigerator are not available for camper’s use. Additional snacks are highly recommended.

Prohibited Items

For the safety of children and their belongings, we request that Summer Fun participants do not bring any electronic devices. If cell phones are parent-approved, they must be kept out of sight at all times. Also prohibited are shoes with wheels.

Parking Policy

When checking in or picking up your child, you must park in a designated parking space. Please do not stop your vehicle in the driveway. Parking is available in the North and South Lobby entrance areas and along Third Ave NE in front of the buildings. A map will be sent with your confirmation.

Refund Policy

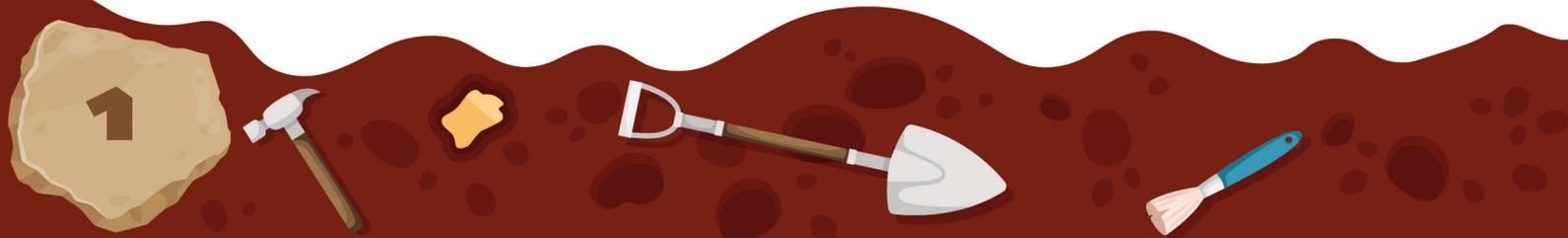
If cancellation occurs two weeks before class begins an **administrative fee of \$12 per class** will be deducted from the refund. Refunds will not be given for cancellations occurring after the two-week cancellation date. CSC reserves the right to cancel any class/program if the minimum enrollment is not met. If CSC cancels the class the entire payment will be refunded. Participants will be notified the Thursday of the week prior to the class of any changes.

Innovation Camp

CSC is happy to support the continuation of the NC Center for Engineering Technologies’ Innovation Camps as part of our summer camp program. Information about these (almost) full day camps for rising 1st-6th graders can be found on page 10.

Late Registration Fee

A late fee of \$15 per child will be charged for registrations made less than two weeks prior to camp.



2026



Summer Fun

828-322-8169
CatawbaScience.org

CAMP STRUCTURE

CSC is offering 13 weeks* of hands-on science this summer. Children can attend SciFun Classes each day from 10:00 am to noon. We also provide extended daycare options for an additional price. Care is available from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

*Week 1 will only be 4 days — weekly rates will be less than the rates listed below.

Create a Schedule that Works for You! →

Sunrise Science Pre-K– 9th grade

Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 10:00 am

Available for 4-year-olds to rising 9th-graders. Supervised independent learning experiences, science-related games, and exhibit visits before CSC opens to the public! Drop-off can happen any time before 10am.

Member: \$30, Non-member: \$40

4 Day Weeks Member: \$26, Non-member: \$30

Summer Fun SciFun Classes Pre-K – 9th grade

Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Choose from 13 weeks of exciting and fun-filled science classes designed for specific age groups.

Each week features a different class theme.

Cost varies by week and topic.

Afternoon Adventures 1st – 9th grade

Monday – Friday, 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Supervised activities include indoor and outdoor games, scavenger hunts, and themed parties. Enrolled participants may go on field trips to great local attractions: swim at the YMCA, watch movies at Carolina Theatre, take walks in City of Hickory Parks, have story time at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library (young campers), and bowl at Pin Station (older campers).

Member: \$91, Non-member: \$116

4 Days Weeks Member: \$74, Non-member: \$94

**SciFun + Innovation Camp
participants will receive one
free t-shirt!**

Late Registration Fee

A late fee of \$15 per child will be charged for registrations made less than two weeks prior to camp.

Scan to register today!



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Scholarships Available!

Visit CatawbaScience.org/scholarships-discounts for more info on our Portal to Science Program



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Rising Pre-K & Kindergarten

Pre-K Participants must be at least 4-years of age and be able to independently use the restroom.

Week 1 – May 26-29 (4 day week)

Little Dinos — So many dinosaurs, so little time! Dig for dinosaur fossils and see how you compare to the size of an Apatosaurus. Make your own dino discovery bottle to take home. **Member cost: \$78, Non-member cost: \$98**

Week 2 – June 1-5

Nurture Nature — Discover the wonder of our world as we go on a nature safari! Explore the beauty of your own backyard, learn about animal habitats and recycling! Make bird feeders, recycled art projects, and go on a litter-sweep. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 3 – June 8-12

The Four Seasons — Winter, Summer, Spring, and Fall - which one is your favorite of them all? Understand the reasons for the seasons here on Earth. Make a colorful four season's tree. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 4 – June 15-19

Storybook Science — Explore science found in different works of children's literature and related pictures each day. Create a textured collage based on *I Wonder If I'll see a Whale*, make a *Mixed-up Chameleon* to take home, and see for yourself why you wouldn't want a house made from straw. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 5 – June 22-26

African Safari — Explore the land where many endangered animals live. Find out how elephants, rhinoceroses, and cheetahs survive in hot and dry savanna habitats. Create your very own African animal to take home. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 6 – June 29-July 3

Weather Around Us —What are clouds made of? What causes the wind? You'll find out during this study of the ever-changing state of the Earth's atmosphere. Make a tornado in a bottle to take home. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**



Week 7 – July 6-10

Rainforest Romp — Take a trip through the fascinating rainforests of the world. Learn about the incredible number of animals living there and why their survival is important to us all. Create a mask of your favorite rainforest creature. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 8 – July 13-17

TECH: Legos — Unearth the discoveries of archaeologists! Explore the different tools and maps that an archaeologist uses. Create an ancient city! **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 9 – July 20-24

Cosmic Campers — Learn about the planets, our Moon and the Sun. Visit CSC's Millholland Planetarium to view *One World One Sky: Big Birds Adventure*. Create your own solar system to show off. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**





Week 10 – July 27-31

Undersea Explorers — Go “Under the Sea” to visit living marine creatures. Observe live animals in the classroom and CSC’s aquaria to find out what they need to survive. Create your own edible ocean habitat. Visit the Millholland Planetarium to watch *Legends of the Enchanted Reef*.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 11 – August 3-7

Rock Solid — Get dirty at CSC as you learn the difference between rocks and minerals. Go on a rock hunt. Create your own sand art to take home!

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 12 – August 10-14

Color My World — Who or what is ROY G BIV? How is a rainbow made? Find out the answers to these questions and more as you create watercolor rain and make your own play dough to take home.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 13 – August 17-21

Little Engineers — Join in the fun of building challenges involving materials like Legos, nuts and bolts, and even food! Discover the mechanics of a wrecking ball and build your own!

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121



Rising 1st & 2nd Grades

Week 1 – May 26-29 (4 day week)

Fascinating Rhythms — Explore sound energy as you make your own musical instruments from everyday household items. Find out what waves have to do with sound and how our ears enable us to hear. Visit the Millholland Planetarium and see sound waves in action while watching a laser show.

Member cost: \$78, Non-member cost: \$98

Week 2 – June 1-5

Sun Fun — Did you know the sun is really a star? Learn about what’s at the center of our solar system and have some fun in the sun while making art and roasting s’mores to eat. Visit the Millholland Planetarium to watch *The Little Star That Could*.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 3 – June 8-12

Nature’s Nocturne — Follow the noises in the nighttime forest to find the animals that create a symphony of sounds. Investigate their highly-developed senses of hearing, smell, and specially adapt eyesight. “Visit” opossums, bats, sugar gliders, and owls in their nighttime habitats and create your own nocturnal friend to take home.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 4 – June 15-19

NATURE FUN: Birds of a Different Feather — Do you know which bird is the largest in the world? Can all birds fly? Learn the answer to these questions and many more. Make your own bird feeder to hang outside your home to attract birds. Held at Glen Hilton Park.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 5 – June 22-26

Dinosaurs — Can you roar like a dinosaur? Can you walk like a dinosaur? Learn how dinosaurs walked and roared as you visit CSC’s *Dinosaurs!* exhibit. Create your very own dinosaur feet and go on a dinosaur walk! Watch *Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival* in the Millholland Planetarium.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121



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Week 6 – June 29-July 3

Winter in June — Who says it can't snow in June? With a little help from science, make a snowstorm in a test tube, and watch a snowman melt before your eyes. Learn about polar animals and make liquid nitrogen ice cream to keep cool.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 7 – July 6-10

Cretaceous Creatures — Explore the world during the time of the dinosaurs while investigating layers of the Earth and fossils. Create an edible "dirt dig" as you search for evidence of these prehistoric animals. Compare how dinosaurs were different from other ancient reptiles. Watch *Dinosaurs: A Story of Survival* in the Millholland Planetarium.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 8 – July 13-17

Kooky Chemistry — Get all mixed up combining simple ingredients to make your own bouncy balls and a soda fountain. Get a better understanding of the difference between physical and chemical changes. Explore states of matter and temperature while making your own sherbet.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 9 – July 20-24

Up, Up, & Away — Get carried away on a wave of nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon dioxide - a mixture more commonly known as air. Discover how flight is possible and create bubbles of enormous proportions!

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 10 – July 27-31

TECH: Lego — Discover the world of archaeologist! Dive deep into the ground to unearth ancient finds. Build your own map!

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 11 – August 3-7

Forces of Nature — Discover what causes thunder and lightning. Learn how and where hurricanes form, how inclement weather is tracked and how to stay safe from tornadoes. Watch *The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather* in the Millholland Planetarium.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 12 – August 10-14

Body Language — Do you know that your brain is the control center for your body? How can your body be made mostly of water? Join this class to explore the amazing world that lies beneath your skin. Create your own life-size wearable body apron. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 13 – August 17-21

Olympic Scientists — Cross-country skiing, figure skating, curling, even Bobsleigh! Discover the physics behind these Winter Olympics Events and participate in CSC Olympic competitions! **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**





Rising 3rd & 4th Grades

Week 1 – May 26-29 (4 day week)

Movie Monster Mayhem — Use your imagination and scientific knowledge to investigate some of the most famous movie monsters and their real-life counterparts. From Jaws and Big Foot to vampires and werewolves, learn what creatures were the inspiration for these frightening characters!

Member cost: \$78, Non-member cost: \$98

Week 2 – June 1-5

Dino Discoveries — Explore the world of dinosaurs with the help of CSC's *Dinosaurs!* exhibit. Learn what a paleontologist does and take a closer look at real fossils. Play a game of "Who Dung it?" that the whole camp will be talking about.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 3 – June 8-12

Light & Lenses — Experiment with the unusual properties of light using polarizing filters, prisms and telescopes. Try your hand at bouncing lasers around the room with mirrors and enjoy a laser show in the Millholland Planetarium.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 4 – June 15-19

Theories Abound — Dinosaurs were slow and sluggish, cold-blooded, bad parents, and all green and brown. Determine fact from myth while visiting *Dinosaurs!* including what living animals are most like dinosaurs.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

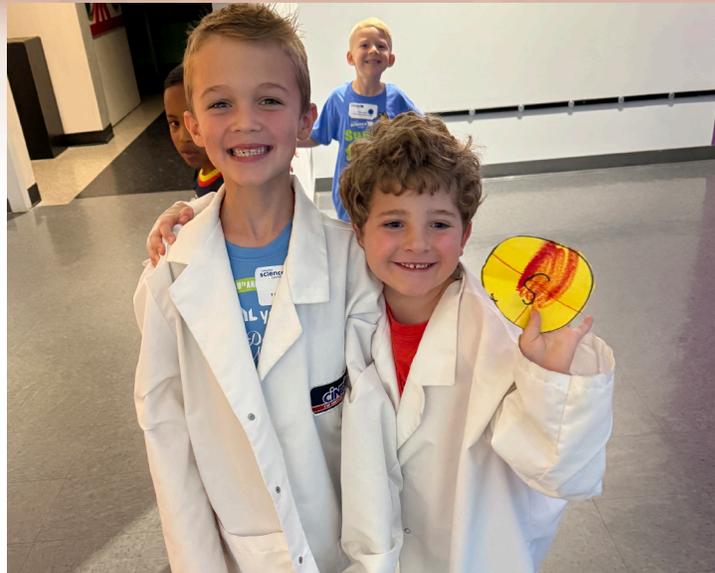
*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 5 – June 22-26

NATURE FUN: Nature's Art — Enjoy a week of fun arty projects involving nature. Use mud, leaves, the sun, and more to create your own masterpieces. The world never looked so lovely, and your art will only add to Earth's beauty! Held at Glen Hilton Park.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121



*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 6 – June 29-July 3

Rockin' Rocks — In this geological exploration, study what causes earthquakes, tsunamis, cave erosion, and fossils. Test and identify minerals as you research their properties. Create your very own pet rock.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 7 – July 6-10

CSI at CSC — Become a 'Super Sleuth' as you crack the case at a CSC crime scene. Search for blood spatters in the dark. Uncover the secrets contained in fingerprints. Learn to identify unknown substances through the power of scientific tests and analysis. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 8 – July 13-17

Modern Marvels & More — Take a look at famous engineering marvels and try your hand at creating a few yourself. From towers and bridges to domes and dams; get a closer look at the science behind civil engineering.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121





*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 9 – July 20-24

Animal Antics — Investigate amazing animal senses and adaptations, such as noses for digging and ears for seeing. Discover which animal has the sharpest eyesight, most sensitive nose, and best sense of touch. Go in-depth when you dissect a cow eye. Visit the CSC's alligator.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 10 – July 27-31

Soda Pop Science — Why is soda fizzy? How does popcorn pop? Fizz, pop, and foam your way through food experiments while you answer these questions and many more.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 11 – August 3-7

On the Brink — Take a closer look at animals that have become extinct and those that scientists have brought back from the brink. Endangered means there's still time to save these threatened species – find out how you can help.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 12 – August 10-14

Chaotic Contraptions — Cartoonist, inventor, and scientist Rube Goldberg was best known for his goofy contraptions that use a chain reaction of simple machines to complete a single task. Spend a week making the wackiest contraptions you can! **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 13 – August 17-21

Asia: Our Largest Continent — Take a week long trip to Earth's largest continent, of Asia! Discover wildlife, taste exotic cuisine, explore the physics of climbing the Himalayans, and investigate this intriguing landscape.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Rising 5th & 6th Grades

Week 1 – May 26-29 (4 day week)

Pesky Plastics — We're hearing it constantly in the media: plastic bags, straw, bottles, and Styrofoam are having a global impact. Learn the chemical properties of plastics and discover what steps you can take to make a positive impact on conservation efforts. Use recycled plastics in inventive ways.

Member cost: \$78, Non-member cost: \$98

Week 2 – June 1-5

Food Chemistry — Test your chemistry skills in the kitchen and find out why our bodies need food for energy. Learn how kitchen chemistry can change states of matter. Who knew chemistry was so yummy?

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 3 – June 8-12

Biological Blueprints — Unlock the secrets of the “king of molecules” known as DNA. Extract these macromolecules from onions, strawberries, and you! Formulate hypotheses about physical characteristics and how they are passed from one generation to the next.

Member cost: \$98, Non-member cost: \$123





Week 4 – June 15-19

Beastly Behavior — What makes whales whistle, pandas turn somersaults and crocodiles roar? Answer these questions and more as you learn about animals that are endangered.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 5 – June 22-26

Discovering Paleontology — It's time to begin your paleontology career here at CSC! Discover how fossils are formed and learn what it takes to find and collect them. Spend time in the *Dinosaurs!* exhibit and examine real fossils up-close. Watch *Dinosaurs at Dusk* in the Millholland Planetarium.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 6 – June 29-July 3

Micro Worlds — Delve into unseen worlds! Learn proper techniques of using a microscope, investigate single-celled organisms, and discover what can be hiding in ordinary pond water. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 7 – July 6-10

Solve It! — Exercise your skills of observation and deduction as you sift through evidence for clues and decide who did it? Mysteries abound in this class that is not so “elementary”.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 8 – July 13-17

NATURE FUN: Down & Dirty — Have fun in this hands-on discovery class about dirt and soil. Discover the many uses of soil and what it contains. Oh, the fun you will have with dirt! Held at Glen Hilton Park.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.



Week 9 – July 20-24

Brain Games — Are you good at solving puzzles? Try your hand at many different brain teasers and get an up-close look at a real brain!

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

*Innovation Camp Opportunity

for this age group this week information can be found on page 10.

Week 10 – July 27-31

Stellar Exploration — Learn the life cycle of stars and journey through the solar system. View the universe in the Millholland Planetarium. Build and launch a model rocket for your final experiment and countdown.

Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121

Week 11 – August 3-7

Water Works — Ready? Set? Splash! Can you conquer the water maze? Can you win the water race? Make a water cycle bracelet! Enjoy an entire week focused on the wonders of water. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**



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Week 12 – August 10-14

The Human Machine — Your skeleton, muscles, and organs work together to make a wonderful human machine. Investigate muscles, bones, and motion. Explore the world of simple machines and how they relate to humans and our world. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Week 13 – August 17-21

The STEM Sports Challenge — Engage in the mechanics of archery, sailing, diving, parachuting, and basketball during this week long endurance camp. What does it take to physically excel in all these fascinating sports? Find out! **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**

Rising 7th-9th Grades

Week 2 – June 1-5

Wet & Wild Water Quality — Water moves through both living and non-living systems and binds them together in a complex web of life. Investigate this important relationship by taking a boat tour of Lake Hickory and visiting the water treatment plant. Create a device to filter contamination. **Member cost: \$104, Non-member cost: \$128**

Week 3 – June 8-12

Claws, Bills, & Teeth...OH MY!! — Let's talk about predators! Adaptations are one way predators have evolved. Discover and discuss possible adaptations with predators over the years to come. Visit the Carolina Raptor Center. **Member cost: \$104, Non-member cost: \$128**

Week 7 – July 6-10

Jr. Archaeologist — Get ready to dig right in and get your hands dirty while learning the basics to archeology. Participate in a mock dig to unearth prehistoric artifacts and analyze them. Visit an archaeological dig site and talk to real archaeologists. **Member cost: \$100, Non-member cost: \$126**

Week 10 – July 27-31

Marine Biology — Explore the mysteries of the ocean and its incredible ecosystems. From vibrant coral reefs to mysterious deep-sea environments, we'll uncover the diversity of marine life and the importance of our oceans in the global ecosystem. Visit the CSC's aquarium with a behind the scenes tour. **Member cost: \$96, Non-member cost: \$121**



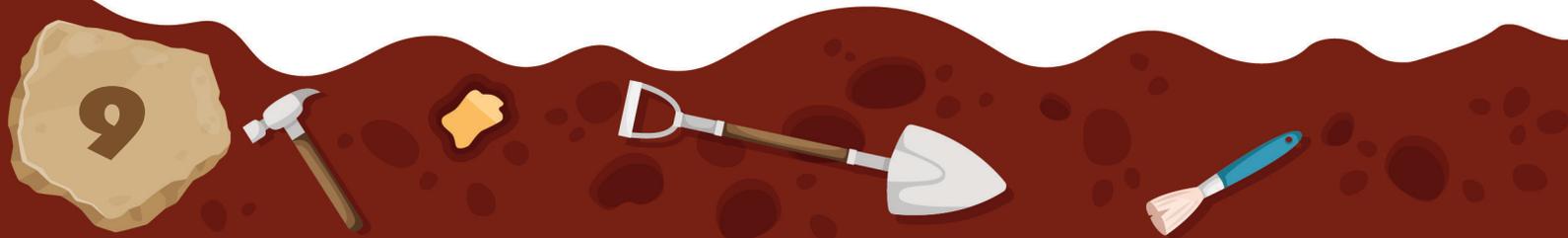
CELEBRATE WITH SCIENCE

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birthday parties

Exciting birthday party packages with multiple science themes to choose from!

Learn more at CatawbaScience.org/Birthday-Parties



Innovation CAMPS



Started in 2010, the Innovation Camps (formerly Future Engineers Camps) were a program of the North Carolina Center for Engineering Technologies and Appalachian State University prior to transitioning to CSC. Open to **rising 1st through 6th grade** students every summer, the camps offer fun learning experiences for those interested in **engineering, robotics, coding, and other STEM-related concepts**.

Camps will be held at Catawba Science Center from **9:00 am – 3:30 pm**. Campers are required to bring their lunch each day and are strongly encouraged to bring snacks for both morning and afternoon. For families in need of longer care during the day, please contact summerfun@catawbascience.org for more information about how we can accommodate your needs. **Each camp session is unique, with different projects and activities.**

Space is limited... REGISTER ONLINE!
CatawbaScience.org/Summer-Fun-Science-Camps

Rising 1st - 3rd Graders

ENGINEERING PIONEERS: Think like an engineer! Play like a kid! You will design things like bridges, towers, cars, and crazy creations using everyday materials. Explore how things work through exciting engineering challenges while building, testing, and improving your own designs. It's creative, messy, and full of "aha" moments-no experience needed!

SESSION 1: June 15-19

SESSION 2: July 13-17

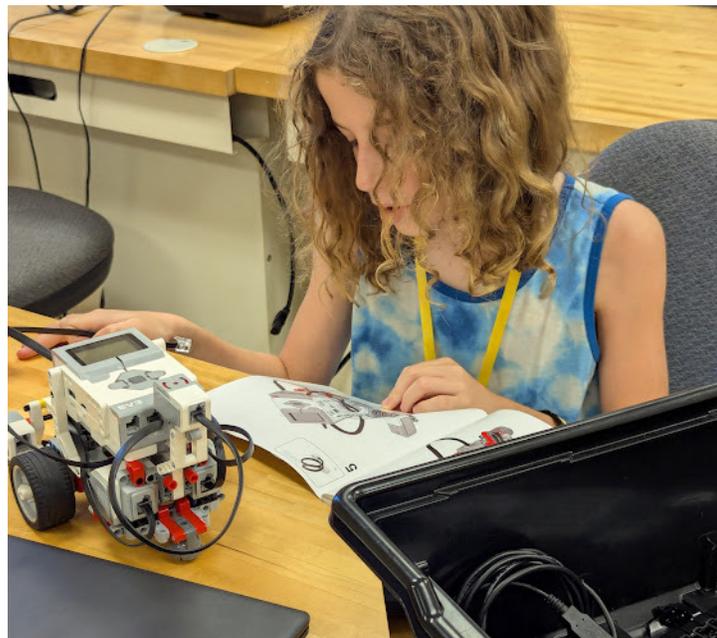


Ready to Register?

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Member cost: \$350

Non-member cost: \$400



Rising 4th - 6th Graders

FUTURE ENGINEERS: Where your ideas turn into creations! Build It. Test It. Make it Better! From things like tall towers to speedy racers, you will tackle exciting challenges that turn learning into an adventure. Use your imagination to solve fun problems and create things that really work. No boring stuff-just building, testing, and fun. Every challenge encourages creativity, persistence, and teamwork! No experience needed!

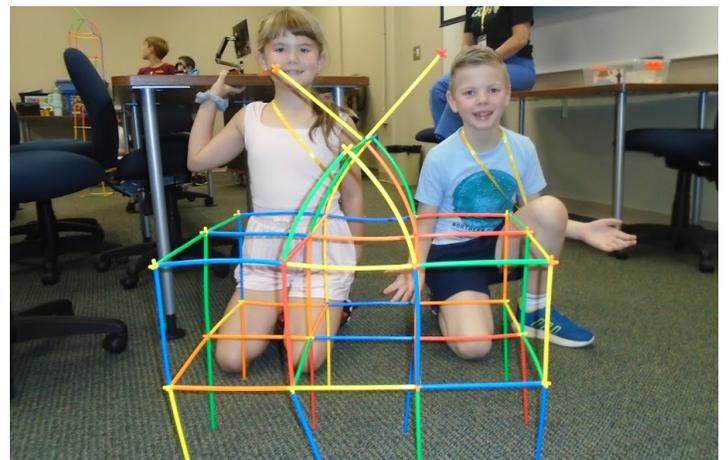
SESSION 1: June 15-19

SESSION 2: July 13-17

ROBOTICS: Where Kids Become Robot Engineers! Your imagination comes to life as you learn to build and program a LEGO EV3 robot to compete in fun challenges and robot arenas. You will build and customize your robot, make it move, and show off in awesome arenas! Every day brings a new adventure-and you're the robot engineer! There are challenges for every skill level-don't worry if it's your first time!

SESSION 1: June 22-26

SESSION 2: July 20-24





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Hickory, NC 28601

www.CatawbaScience.org

**Changing Lives and
Inspiring Learning
Through Science
and Wonder.**

HICKORY MUSEUM OF ART

**Our camps may look a little different
this year but they're still HMA!**

This summer, art camps for kids ages 4-13 will be held in our satellite location at Valley Hills Mall from May 26 to July 2 before teamHMA begins to prepare for the museum's reopening in September.



create **M**
SUMMER
art camps

Visit hickoryart.org/summer26
for complete details!

DINOSAURS!
OPEN FEBRUARY!
THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2026!
PLANETARIUM • AQUARIUM • HANDS-ON FUN!
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Life-sized animatronic Dinosaurs that move and roar!

