

SCIENCE OF BUGS

Thursdays, January 29 – April 30 (no class Feb 19, Apr 9; 12 weeks)

12:30pm-1:45pm

Ages 6-8

Explore what it means to be an Entomologist and get an up-close look at your local area through insect identification. Students learn the biology, ecology, and anatomy of bugs through field and lab observation, experimentation, microscopy, and dissection. All lab costs are included in registration fee.

Instructor: Jessica Barnes, BSc

Location: Science Center (suite 5)

Course fee: \$220 or \$20/lab

10% sibling discount

Register for full semester or individual labs

LAB SCHEDULE:

DIVERSITY OF INSECTS - Thursday, January 29

Students learn about different groups of insects and their characteristics (beetles versus butterflies, for example), then go on an insect scavenger hunt to see which groups we can find.

INSECT ANATOMY - Thursday, February 5

This week, we learn insect body parts, and how they help insects survive in their habitats. We dissect a grasshopper to investigate its external and internal anatomy.

INSECT ADAPTATIONS - Thursday, February 12

Students study feeding and flying adaptations of insects as we use microscopes to investigate the mouthparts of mosquitoes and wings of butterflies.

LOST LADYBUG PROJECT - Thursday, February 26

Learn about scientific observations, data collection, and citizen science as we investigate ladybugs, make observations, and collect data about ladybugs for the Lost Ladybug Project.

NOT AN INSECT! - Thursday, March 5

Not all bugs are insects! We investigate other creatures we think of as bugs to see what makes them different from true insects.

BUG HOMES - Thursday, March 12

Kids explore bug homes as we dissect a log to determine who lives inside, look for evidence of bugs that lived there, and learn about creatures that decompose wood.

INSECTS AND PEOPLE - Thursday, March 19

Students learn about the different ways people and insects interact, how to identify the bugs around our homes and yards, and how some bugs can thrive in human spaces.

LIFE CYCLES - Thursday, March 26

Students compare and contrast the life cycles of different insects, learn developmental stages (and how some terrestrial insects have aquatic larvae!), and investigate our fruit fly cultures.

SOCIAL INSECTS - Thursday, April 2

We study the behavior of social insects, including the structure of honeybee colonies and behaviors that help the hive survive and thrive.

POLLINATORS - Thursday, April 16

Students study the importance of insects in the pollination of flowers, how insects see flower petals differently than we do, investigate pollen under a microscope, and simulate the pollination process.

INSECT HOST PLANTS - Thursday, April 23

This week we study how many insects rely on specific host plants during certain stages of their lives for food, habitat, or to lay their eggs.

BUTTERFLY MIGRATION - Thursday, April 30

Kids learn about the migration of monarch butterflies, how scientists track where they go each year, and how we can help monarch populations that fly through our area.

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