SCIENCE OF INSECTS

Mondays, January 26-May 4 (no class Feb 16, March 16, April 6; 12 weeks)
12:30pm-1:45pm
Ages 8-10

Buzz, crawl, flap and explore the tiny world of insects! Students become junior entomologists as they study body parts, life cycles, pollinators and the amazing adaptations that help insects survive. From dissecting grasshoppers to searching for bugs outdoors and even helping with real citizen science, each week brings a new chance to discover just how incredible insects really are. All lab costs are included in registration fee.

Instructor: Jessica Barnes, BSc
Location: Science Center (suite 21)
Course fee: $220 or $20/lab
10% sibling discount
Register for full semester or individual labs

LAB SCHEDULE:

DIVERSITY OF INSECTS - Monday, January 26
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 - Monday, February 2
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 - Monday, February 9
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 - Monday, February 23
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! - Monday, March 2
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 - Monday, March 9
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 - Monday, March 23
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 - Monday, March 30
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 - Monday, April 13
We study the behavior of social insects, including the structure of honeybee colonies and behaviors that help the hive survive and thrive.

POLLINATORS - Monday, April 20
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 - Monday, April 27
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 - Monday, May 4
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.