## SCIENCE OF INVERTEBRATES

Wednesdays, September 14-December 14 (No class Oct 12 or Nov 23; 12 weeks)
9:30am-10:45am
Ages 6-10

**Students study the biology and ecology of several invertebrate phyla, including their basic anatomy, behaviors, and role in food webs, as well as practice proper microscopy and dissection procedures.** Lab supplies are included in registration fee.

Location: Discover Science Center - Peachtree City
Course fee: $220 OR $20/lab
10% off sibling discount
Register for full semester or individual labs.

## LAB SCHEDULE:

DIVERSITY OF INSECTS - Wednesday, September 14
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.

MICROSCOPIC INVERTS - Wednesday, September 21
We use microscopes to investigate microscopic invertebrates living in pond water to see the diversity of creatures smaller than our eye can see.

POLLINATORS AND HOST PLANTS - Wednesday, September 28
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.

LOST LADYBUG PROJECT - Wednesday, October 5
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.

INSECT ANATOMY - Wednesday, October 19
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.

BRINE SHRIMP - Wednesday, October 26
Kids learn the science of Sea Monkeys, as they investigate phototactic behavior and hatch their own population of brine shrimp.

MARINE INVERTEBRATES - Wednesday, November 2
Kids learn about characteristics of marine habitats, explore the vast array of marine invertebrates, and study adaptations needed to survive in a salty environment, including investigating the anatomy of a preserved jellyfish.

MOLLUSK DIVERSITY - Wednesday, November 9
From giant clams to camouflaging squid, we learn about the diversity and biology of mollusks as we study shells, squid and dissect a clam.

WORM DISSECTIONS - Wednesday, November 16
We investigate and dissect members from two phyla of worms – segmented worms and roundworms – to compare and contrast their anatomy and biology.

PLANARIA - Wednesday, November 30
Today we investigate the strange biology of flatworms. Students investigate the feeding behavior of planaria, and observe the adaptations that help them survive in their environment.

CRUSTACEANS - Wednesday, December 7
Roly polies are not insects but are closely related to shrimp and crabs! Kids investigate the behavior and habitat preferences of crustaceans that live on land and in the sea.

PARASITIC INVERTEBRATES - Wednesday, December 14
Some invertebrates live on or in other animals. Today, we explore the weird world of parasites, learn about the life cycle of some, and take a look at several microscopic examples.