SPRING 2020 STUDENT PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOLS
Program Descriptions: January 2020 – May 2020

YOUNGER STUDENTS (Grades K-3)

JANUARY
Marvelous Minerals: Working together in small groups, students handle mineral specimens such as malachite, amethyst, mica, pyrite and copper. They learn to identify common minerals on the basis of their properties using a field guide and minerals identification key.

In My Backyard (planetarium): Join Fred Penner from TV’s Nickelodeon as he explores his backyard searching for both things large and small. We will also learn about the reason for seasons, colors in the rainbow and even count together. This show is geared towards the youngest stargazers and encourages exploring your own backyard with fun songs and audience participation!

FEBRUARY
Habitat Earth (planetarium): Dive below the ocean’s surface and travel beneath the forest floor to explore how living organisms are interconnected to support life forms both large and small. From the tiniest microbe to the tallest tree, Habitat Earth utilizes stunning images to show students how the biological world is carefully intersected with human and ecological networks.

Recycling Resources: Students will investigate ways to help reduce, reuse and recycle our waste. They will work together to deconstruct a model landfill, collect data and build graphs to analyze the effects of our trash in the environment!

MARCH
Staying Alive! What adaptations help animals to stay alive in their habitat? Students will answer this question as we observe live animals including an owl, alligator, turtle, frog and salamander and learn all about animal adaptations by participating in hands-on stations.

Multiplication Madness: Join us in our computer lab to dive into all things multiplication. This program introduces and extends students’ multiplication skills through building arrays, easy to use strategies and multiplication games. Finally, students will test their new multiplication knowledge on the computer with flash cards with a techno twist!

APRIL
Hitchcock Woods Ecohike: This is a two-hour, two-mile guided hike through Hitchcock Woods. Native plants will be identified, evidence of animal life will be examined, and forest communities will be compared.

MAY
Roly Poly Palooza: Did you know that the roly poly is not an insect? Join us as we observe live pill bug specimens and learn about this unusual creature.

What’s the Matter: Students will investigate three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. They will observe, describe, and compare physical properties of solids and liquids. They will also explore mixtures and solutions.

Please visit http://rpsec.usca.edu/student/ for registration.

OLDER STUDENTS (Grades 4-8)

JANUARY
Vertebrate Taxonomy: Students will participate in hands-on taxonomy activities as well as take a look inside the 5 groups of vertebrates using x-ray images. They will interact and observe live animals including salamanders, frogs/toads, turtles, snakes, an alligator, and an owl.

Polygon Puzzle: Students will explore properties of Greek roots of polygons and polyhedrons. Using dynamic computer software called Geometer’s Sketch Pad they will be challenged to solve a puzzle as they construct acute, obtuse, right, isosceles, equilateral, and scalene triangles.

FEBRUARY
Simple Machines: Students will conduct investigations to distinguish between force and work, and mass and weight. They will demonstrate how simple machines such as levers, pulleys, and inclined planes reduce the amount of force needed to do work.

We All Live Downstream: Students will discover the amount and importance of available water on Earth through a series of activities. They will work in teams to develop riverfront property and explore how watersheds affect water and populations downstream.

MARCH
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APRIL
Sunstruck (planetarium): Discover the wonders of our sun! Its incredible energy supports life on Earth, but solar storms can threaten our technology and way of life. Discover connections between sunspots, magnetic fields, aurora, and power failures. Travel to the distant future to discover our sun’s connection to the cosmic cycle of life and death.

Walk Across the Solar System: Students learn about the planets and the size of the solar system as they create a model of the solar system using a scale of 1 inch = 100,000 miles. This requires walking outside for about a mile, so please wear appropriate shoes!

MAY
Catapult Creations: Launch into summer as a catapult engineer! Plan, build, and test your catapult design in fun games and challenges.

Mad Scientist: Is it Magic or is it Science? Students will be WOWed with many “mind blowing” science demonstrations as we explore the fundamental basics of physical science.

Updated: July 1, 2019