Science Discovery

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Summer 2026

K-8 Summer Camps

High School Classes

STEM Research Experience

STEM Pathfinders

Online Registration NOW OPEN!

CU Boulder | CU Anschutz

CU Science Discovery's summer camps and high school classes for grades K–12 provide engaging, **hands-on STEM experiences** grounded in **inquiry-based learning**. Designed to inspire **curiosity** and **creativity**, our programs encourage students to **explore big ideas**, ask bold questions, and experience **the excitement of scientific discovery**.

Online Registration Opens
JANUARY 5
at
10am

The final pages of this catalog feature answers to our most commonly asked questions, including:

- Cancellation and transfer policies
- Grade level selection
- What to bring to camp
- Scholarship opportunities
- Waitlist process and more

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Summer 2026 Camps for Grades K-8

All K-8 camps will be held at CU Science Disocvery unless otherwise noted. Please see website for complete location details.

REMINDER! Early Release Fridays: All camps on the CU Boulder campus end at 3pm on Fridays.

		June 1-5	June 8-12	June 15-18*	June 22-26	July 6-10	July 13-17	July 20-24	July 27-31
GRADES K-1 and K-2	Bug Scouts	9-4				9-4			
	The Great Science Adventure				9-4			9-4	
	Mini Medics		9-4						9-4
	Oceans to Orbits			9-4			9-4		
	Rockets for Junior Astronauts (Session A)	9-4				9-4		9-4	
	Rockets for Junior Astronauts (Session B)	9-4				9-4		9-4	
GRADES 2-3	Brainiacs		9-12						1-4
	The CUSD Monarch Project			9-4				9-4	
	Grossology		1-4						9-12
	If You Build It!!				9-12		1-4		
	(Not So) Mad Scientist	9-4				9-4			
	Robot Playground				1-4		9-12		
GRADES 4-5	Cardboard Carnival				9-4			9-4	
	Marine Biology			9-12		1-4			
	Martian Adventures		1-4			9-12			
	Muggle Magic: The Science of Harry Potter	9-4							9-4
	Phun with Physics			1-4					9-12
	Pinball Design Challenge				9-12		9-12		
	Spy School		9-12						1-4
GRADES 5-6	Bio-Inspired: STEM in the Wild			9-4			9-4		
	Chemical Reactions				9-12				
	Escape Room: Puzzles and Ciphers				1-4				
	Explore the Force: The Science of Star Wars	1-4						9-12	
	Nature Through a Lens: A STEM Adventure			9-12			1-4		
	Power the Future: Clean Energy Engineering	9-12						1-4	
	Project: Curiosity!		9-4			9-4			
	Scratch Studio			1-4			9-12		
	Strategic Minds: Logic, Math and Chess								1-4
GRADES 7-8	Advanced Programming With Python				9-12				
	AI Lab	1-4						9-12	
	Arduino: An Introduction		9-12			1-4			
	Chess Logic: Math, Science and Strategy				1-4				
	Creative Lens: Digital Design and Photography				9-4				9-4
	Drone Flight School			9-12			9-12		
	InnovateHER		9-4				9-4		
	Innovation Lab		9-12			9-12			
	Level Up! Game Design	9-12						1-4	
	Programming with Python		1-4			9-12			
	Your Brain and Art			1-4			1-4		

***Note: This is a 4-day week.**

All high school classses and programs being held at CU Anschutz can be found at the end of this catalog.

ROCKETS for JUNIOR ASTRONAUTS*

June 1-5; 9am-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-4pm
July 20-24; 9am-4pm
$595
Location: Fiske Planetarium

3, 2, 1 – BLAST OFF! Spend the week at Fiske Planetarium learning about flight on Earth and in space, rocket design, and life as an astronaut in Science Discovery's longest-running summer camp. In the weeks leading up to camp, be sure to gather a variety of clean recyclables, as we'll be using them to construct our very own handmade, life-sized rockets. Storybooks will spark our engineering imaginations as we explore how to create simple machines to enhance our rocket designs. On Friday, families are invited to join us at the Fiske Planetarium Dome to help launch our rockets into outer space! Mark your calendars and plan to attend our rocket launch at the Planetarium on Friday at 2pm.

***IMPORTANT NOTE WHEN REGISTERING:** There are two sessions of *Rockets for Junior Astronauts* being offered each of these weeks. Within the Active Network registration system, the sessions will be labeled A and B. If you wish to have your child in the same camp session with a friend or sibling, please ensure that you're selecting the same session name when registering.

BUG SCOUTS

June 1-5; 9am-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-4pm
$595

Grab your magnifying glass BUG SCOUTS – it's time to explore a world that buzzes, crawls and grows! From fluttering butterflies to busy bees, we'll uncover how these tiny creatures help plants bloom and gardens glow. Throughout our week together, we'll dig in the dirt, create colorful bug art, build butterfly feeders, and watch nature's magic unfold before our eyes. Come wonder, wiggle, and discover the incredible world of bugs and blooms all around us!

K-1 Grades

REMINDER:
EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS
All camps end at 3pm on Fridays.

THE GREAT SCIENCE ADVENTURE

June 22-26; 9am-4pm
July 20-24; 9am-4pm
$595

Welcome to a week of discovery, imagination and fun! Young scientists will explore planets, moons, and the Sun, while investigating flowers, worms, rocks and crystals right here on our own planet. Through bubbling chemistry experiments, magnet magic, quake-proof building challenges, and tinkering with everyday materials, we'll see how science comes alive in both nature and engineering. Every day brings new experiments, playful problem-solving, and opportunities to turn ordinary materials into extraordinary creations!

MINI MEDICS

June 8-12; 9am-4pm
July 27-31; 9am-4pm
$595

Grab your stethoscope and get ready to explore the amazing world of living things, inside and out! We'll become mini doctors and veterinarians as we learn how humans and animals grow, move, and stay healthy. From pumping hearts to strong bones and wiggly tails, we'll discover what keeps bodies thriving! Through playful experiments, creative crafts, and pretend care for our plush patients, we'll explore how food fuels us, how senses help us, and how kindness and care keep every creature feeling their best. Join us for a week of curiosity, compassion, and medical make-believe!

OCEANS TO ORBITS

June 15-18*; 9am-4pm
$475
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 9am-4pm
$595

Dive deep and blast off in one amazing adventure from the sea floor to the stars! Each day, we'll explore two incredible frontiers – first, discovering how waves move and sea creatures shine beneath the ocean's surface and then, soaring into space to learn about the Sun, Moon and planets. Through creative crafts, simple experiments, and hands-on discoveries, campers will uncover how life thrives in the deep sea and how our Earth fits into the vast universe. From glowing jellyfish to glittering galaxies, *Oceans to Orbits* is a an exciting journey!

Grades 2-3

BRAINIACS
June 8-12; 9am-12pm
July 27-31; 1-4pm
$295

Ever wonder what's really going on inside your head? Join us as we explore the amazing, wacky, and wonderful world of your brain! Through fun games, creative activities, and mind-boggling experiments, we'll discover how our brains help us think, move, and make decisions, sometimes even surprising us along the way! Get ready to laugh, learn, and put your brain to the test as we move, groove, and think like true Brainiacs!

GROSSOLOGY
June 8-12; 1-4pm
July 27-31; 9am-12pm
$295

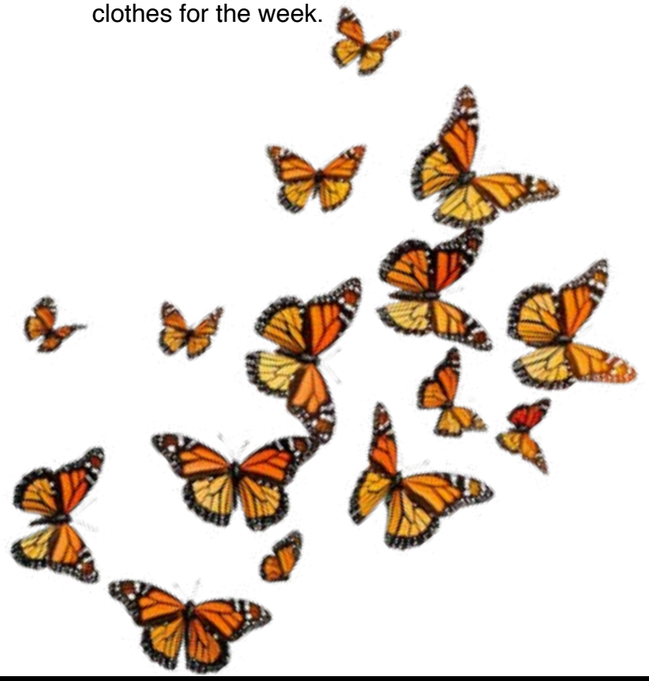
The world is filled with truly fascinating phenomena that can also be considered absolutely disgusting! We'll learn about our amazingly adaptable bodies that handle vicious germs and produce some pretty nasty by-products, and bizarre creatures with disgusting methods of defending themselves. We will consider the various germs that are living on the items you touch daily and learn about what really causes cavities. If you've had the misfortune of smelling skunk spray, maybe you'd like to know why it smells so bad. Through slimy, sticky, gooey experiments and 'gross' motor skills play, we'll uncover our love of grossology, finding a new appreciation for all things gross!

THE CUSD MONARCH PROJECT
June 15-18*; 9am-4pm
$475
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 20-24; 9am-4pm
$595

Join us for a week of exploration, creativity, and hands-on discovery as we dive into the amazing world of the Monarch Butterfly! Young scientists will explore monarchs through engaging, project-based activities, interactive games, imaginative crafts, and outdoor adventures. Along the way, campers will uncover why pollinators are essential, investigate the monarch's life cycle and habitat, and learn about its extraordinary migration journey—one of nature's most incredible feats. By the end of the week, students will not only understand what makes monarchs so remarkable, but also feel inspired and empowered to help protect their habitats and support the future of this beloved species.

Special Note: Students will be gardening in this camp, and as a result, getting dirty. Please consider this when choosing their clothes for the week.



IF YOU BUILD IT
June 22-26; 9am-12pm
July 13-17; 1-4pm
$295

Get ready to become a Master Builder! Using LEGO structures and KEVA planks, we'll discover the science behind what makes buildings and bridges stand tall—even during an earthquake! How do tents, skyscrapers, and suspension bridges defy gravity? Together, we'll explore columns, beams, and cantilevers to uncover the engineering secrets behind strong structures. Bring your creativity and design ideas for a week full of building, problem-solving, and structural adventures!

(NOT SO) MAD SCIENTISTS
June 1-5; 9am-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-4pm
$595

Reactions are happening all around us—and even inside us—every moment! Driven by curiosity, we'll dive into the "magic" of chemistry in our everyday lives as we explore atoms, molecules, elements, and compounds through exciting hands-on experiments. We'll create hydrophobic sand to reveal the surprising power of water, experiment with acids and bases to observe exothermic and endothermic reactions, and test pH levels like real chemists. Then we'll stretch our creativity by working with polymers to make items like slime and biodegradable plastics, discovering how chemistry can look like pure magic. To top it all off, we'll mix science and art in a bit of Chem-ART-istry as we design our very own t-shirt to take home!

Special Note: This chemistry camp will be messy! Please send your child in clothes you don't mind getting stained, hair pulled back and closed toes shoes (required).

REMINDER:
EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS
All camps end at 3pm on Fridays.

ROBOT PLAYGROUND
June 22-26; 1-4pm
July 13-17; 9am-12pm
$330

In this program, students will explore the fascinating world of robots with some of our favorite robotic friends, including Cubelets, Ozobots, LEGO Prime Essential robots, and Dash and Dot. Through a combination of "unplugged," coding, and craft activities, we'll play with, code and create robots that make lights and sound, draw, and move. Using Cubelets, we'll build, test and rebuild robots that sense, 'think,' and act in different ways. We'll draw colorful mazes for Ozobots to navigate, and learn some coding basics as we program Dash to race, bowl and avoid obstacles. We'll even design our own "robot" to help the Earth and use recycled materials to build it!

4-5 Grades

CARDBOARD CARNIVAL
June 22-26; 9am-4pm
July 20-24; 9am-4pm
$595

Bring your creativity as you step right up to the Cardboard Carnival- this exciting camp invites young creators to turn everyday cardboard and recyclables into imaginative, fully functional carnival games! Throughout the week, campers will explore STEM concepts as they design, build, and test their own creations—learning how to integrate simple machines, basic circuits, and creative engineering techniques along the way. By the end of camp, students will showcase their hard work by hosting a mini-carnival, where they can demonstrate their games, share their design process, and celebrate their innovations with their classmates!

Special Note: Participants are encouraged to bring in any recyclables they may want to use for their games. Popcorn will be served on Friday as campers share their carnival creations with one another.

MARINE BIOLOGY
June 15-18*; 9am-12pm
$235
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 6-10; 1-4pm
$295

Go beneath the waves and explore the unique habitats and creatures that are a part of the system that covers over 70% of the Earth—the oceans of the world! From the sandy shores to the deepest and darkest places in the world, we'll learn about how it's possible for such a wide variety of life to survive in these different zones. Come to camp with your questions about sharks, squids, crabs, coral, dolphins, fish or any other underwater creature you want to learn more about. With the help of University specimens, we'll learn some of what scientists know about life beneath the seas, and get a small glimpse into what's left to discover.

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MARTIAN ADVENTURES
June 8-12; 1-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-12pm
$295

Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure! In this immersive week-long camp, students become astronauts-in-training as they dive into the science, engineering, and problem-solving behind planning a mission to Mars. Campers will take on team challenges, build and launch rockets, engineer their own space habitats, explore real CU Boulder astronomy tools, and test rover technology as they navigate a simulated "Martian" landscape. We'll wrap up with the ultimate mission: discovering what it would take for humans to one day live on Mars. By the end of the week, students won't just understand the real science of space exploration—they'll feel ready for their own journey to the Red Planet!

MUGGLE MAGIC: THE SCIENCE OF HARRY POTTER
June 1-5; 9am-4pm
July 27-31; 9am-4pm
$595

Unlock the secrets of science with your fellow wizards-in-training! Every young wizard needs a wand to begin their magical journey, so we'll start by learning the enchanting art of circuits to craft our very own light-up wand. Once we've mastered some basic spells, we'll design our own mystical incantations and discover how to bend our minds with images that seem to come to life. In the starry realm of astronomy, we'll explore the wonders of the sun, moon, and stars as we gaze beyond the night sky. Next, we'll venture into the Potions Lab to test the mysterious consistency of troll boogers, awaken our taste buds with Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans, and uncover the science behind the magical art of flight as we build broomsticks that soar through the air. The week will culminate in an exhilarating game of Quidditch, where we'll test our skills and teamwork, and we'll end our adventure with a frothy, homemade batch of Butterbeer to celebrate. Join us for a week of STEM-filled enchantment, where every spell, potion, and invention brings a little more magic to life!

PHUN WITH PHYSICS
June 15-18*; 1-4pm
$235
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 27-31; 9am-12pm
$295

Inquiring minds invited! Explore our physical world by sampling a variety of science activities, labs, experiments, and demonstrations. We'll conduct many "electric" experiments and actively explore electricity, charge, magnets, air pressure, friction, gravity and other forces. Our week will finish with an egg-citing design challenge, where we'll take what we learned about forces and put them to the test!

PINBALL DESIGN CHALLENGE
June 22-26; 9am-12pm
July 13-17; 9am-12pm
$295

Learn about simple machines as we design, build and test some fantastical contraptions and imaginative pinball games! We will explore ramps and levers and learn fundamentals of force and motion as we create our own customized pinball machines. We'll test gravity and friction, design clever obstacles and may even give our reactions some added pizazz by incorporating circuits to produce sounds or lights. After developing and testing the mechanics and rules for our games, we'll incorporate feedback from our friends to make them even better. Our pinball design week will conclude with our very own pinball arcade - a chance to play each other's games!

SPY SCHOOL
June 8-12; 9am-12pm
July 27-31; 1-4pm
$295

Join us for an exciting week of secret-agent training! In this hands-on class, students explore the science and skills behind real-life espionage. Young spies will decode secret messages, analyze fingerprints, experiment with invisible ink, design simple spy gadgets, and complete team-based missions that challenge their creativity and problem-solving. By the end of the week, each student will earn their Spy School Certification and be ready for their next top-secret adventure!

Grades 5-6

BIO-INSPIRED: STEM IN THE WILD

June 15-18*; 9am-4pm
$475
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 9am-4pm
$595

In this bio-inspired design camp, students explore real-world challenges and discover how nature can inspire solutions. Students will dive into the world of biomimicry, studying how organisms like ants, cacti, and owls have helped humans solve problems. Using nature's strategies as inspiration, students will design their own innovative solutions. This camp is bound to spark a whole new way of seeing the world!

ESCAPE ROOM: PUZZLES AND CIPHERS

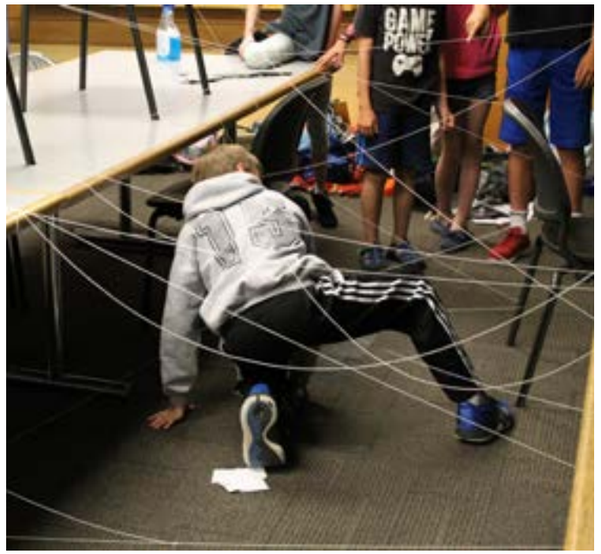
June 22-26; 1-4pm
$295

Make and break secret codes, solve puzzles and engineer new ones designed to stump your friends and family! Throughout the week, we'll dive into the math, science and creative thinking utilized in designing and solving escape rooms. We'll explore the mathematics of cryptography, learn about different ciphers and use our new skills to decrypt and encrypt secret messages. Light, sound and touch can all play a role in communicating information in hidden ways. In addition to solving escape room puzzles, we'll also work together in teams to design our own unique escape rooms, complete with zany stories, puzzles and props. Together, we'll play, practice and puzzle as we work to become master cryptographers, mystery-makers and escape artists.

CHEMICAL REACTIONS

June 22-26; 9am-12pm
$295

If you've ever wondered what makes things fizz, flash, explode with color, heat up, cool down, or blast into the air this is the camp for you. In this electrifying week of hands-on chemistry, students dive headfirst into the world of reactions and transformations. Each day features bold demonstrations, high-energy lab experiments, and creative chemistry challenges that bring real science to life. Along the way, students learn to think like true chemists, asking questions, testing ideas, measuring results, and discovering the hidden science behind everyday materials. Perfect for curious makers, fearless tinkerers, and anyone who loves a good "what would happen if…?" moment. *Chemical Reactions* delivers a week packed with excitement, creativity and STEM discovery. Get ready – this is chemistry like you've never seen before!



EXPLORE THE FORCE: THE SCIENCE OF STAR WARS

June 1-5; 1-4pm
July 20-24; 9am-12pm
$295

"I am one with the Force, and the Force is with me." Join us on an epic adventure as we embark on the Jedi Trials! In this STEM-focused camp, we'll learn to navigate tricky situations, master mind control (and maybe a little Force persuasion), and even build our own droids and full-size lightsabers to take home! From the fiery depths of Mustafar to the icy plains of Hoth, we'll test our teamwork and problem-solving skills as we use lasers, coding, robots, dry ice, and chemistry to tackle challenges and help those we meet along the way. Throughout the week, we'll gain the knowledge and skills to earn the title of Jedi Knight. On Friday, come dressed in your best Jedi gear for Costume Day! We'll celebrate our accomplishments and showcase our engineering creations with a special green screen photo opportunity—posing on any planet in the galaxy!

NATURE THROUGH A LENS: A STEM ADVENTURE

June 15-18*; 9am-12pm
$265
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 1-4pm
$330

Grab your camera and explore the wild! In this interactive photography camp, students will capture the beauty of local parks and nature areas while learning the secrets of taking amazing photos. Each day, campers will hunt for striking compositions, play with creative lighting, and polish their shots using Photoshop. The week also features a special day inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, where students will create temporary art from natural materials and photograph their masterpieces. Perfect for young explorers, artists, and nature lovers, Nature Through a Lens turns the outdoors into your personal photo studio!

REMINDER:
EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS
All camps end at 3pm on Fridays.

POWER THE FUTURE: CLEAN ENERGY ENGINEERING

June 1-5; 9am-12pm
July 20-24; 1-4pm
$295

Get ready to engineer a greener tomorrow! In this week-long camp, we'll explore the incredible technologies and creative ideas that can power our world using clean, renewable energy. From the science behind solar, wind, and hydro power to the engineering that makes them work, we'll investigate how these alternative energy sources can help protect our planet. Throughout the week, we'll design and test solar- and wind-powered vehicles, build circuits that light up using hydro power, and experiment with ways to store and use energy efficiently. Working together, we'll brainstorm innovative solutions for powering our own communities in Colorado and beyond. By the end of camp, you'll be ready to share your big ideas for creating a sustainable, energy-smart future!

PROJECT: CURIOSITY!

June 8-12; 9am-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-4pm
$595

Do you love exploring all things science? Spend a week diving into a variety of STEAM fields, including Physics, Biology, Math, Art, Engineering, Coding and more! Students will explore the conservation of energy by designing safe bungee jumps for toys, and investigate projectile motion while building their own catapults. We'll combine technology and art as campers use color and code with Micro:bits to design their own interactive projects. They'll explore math through creative art, use magnets to build moving cars, and spend time outdoors observing plants, insects, and birds. *Project: Curiosity!* is perfect for young scientists, inventors, and explorers ready for a week of tactile learning, creativity and fun!

SCRATCH STUDIO

June 15-18*; 1-4pm
$265
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 9am-12pm
$330

Unleash your inner coder through this fun introduction to Scratch 3.0! It's never too early to start coding, especially when it's this fun! This exciting camp is perfect for young adventurers who are curious about the world of computer science. Through hands-on, unplugged activities and the creative magic of Scratch 3.0, we'll dive into the basics of coding in the most playful way possible. Using Scratch's colorful drag-and-drop blocks, we'll bring stories, animations, and games to life! We'll learn how to make characters interact, create their own digital worlds, and even remix existing projects from the Scratch gallery. But that's not all – we'll also explore how to make our games and stories come alive in the real world by using objects around us to control the action. Get ready for an unforgettable journey in to coding where creativity meets technology. We can't wait to create, play, and learn with you!

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STRATEGIC MINDS: LOGIC, MATH AND CHESS

July 27-31; 1-4pm
$295

Strategic Minds: Logic, Math, and Chess invites 5th and 6th graders to explore the exciting connections between chess, math, and science! Did you know there are over 318 billion possible positions after just four moves in chess? The number of distinct 40-move games is even greater than the number of electrons in the observable universe! Students will discover how logic, reasoning, and problem-solving shape the game of chess while developing critical thinking, abstract reasoning, and creativity all while having fun and making new friends.

7-8 Grades

AI LAB
June 1-5; 1-4pm
July 20-24; 9am-12pm
$330

Dive into the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence! This active camp combines hands-on projects, thought-provoking discussions, and cutting-edge technology to explore how AI is shaping our future. Campers will learn how AI systems like self-driving cars and image recognition work, experiment with generative AI to create original art and music, and build their own AI-powered gadget using Google Teachable Machine and micro:bit. Throughout the week, we'll also tackle big questions about some of the ethical challenges AI presents, empowering students to think critically about technology. Whether your interest is in science, technology, art, or innovation, this camp will ignite your curiosity and creativity!

ARDUINO: AN INTRODUCTION
June 8-12; 9am-12pm
July 6-10; 1-4pm
$370

This camp is an introduction to physical computing using the popular Arduino microcontroller platform. You'll learn how to assemble simple electronic circuits and write programs (Arduino "sketches") to create projects that light up, move, and make sound. We'll use the Seeed Studio Grove Beginner Kit for Arduino, which is both user-friendly and expandable, making it perfect for future projects. Bonus: You'll take home your own Arduino kit at the end of camp, allowing you to continue building and expanding your creations!

CHESS LOGIC: MATH, SCIENCE AND STRATEGY
June 22-26; 1-4pm
$295

Chess Logic: Math, Science and Strategy invites 7th and 8th graders to explore the fascinating connections between chess and STEM! Did you know there are over 318 billion possible positions after just four moves in chess? The number of distinct 40-move games is even greater than the number of electrons in the observable universe! In this engaging camp, students will discover how math, logic, and scientific thinking shape the game of chess while sharpening critical thinking, strategic reasoning, and creativity all through the fun of play and problem-solving.

CREATIVE LENS: DIGITAL DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY
June 22-26; 9am-4pm
July 27-31; 9am-4pm
$645

See the world through a new lens, literally! In this camp, you'll explore the intersection of art, technology, and creativity through photography and digital design. Step outside to capture the beauty of nature and the excitement of everyday moments while learning the essentials of photography, including lighting, composition, and perspective. Then, head into the digital studio to enhance and transform your images using tools like Photopea and Figma. Experiment with color, layout, and design as you create your own digital artwork, photo collages, and graphic designs. Along the way, you'll discover how digital artists and designers use visual storytelling to capture attention and inspire emotion. By the end of the week, you'll have a portfolio of original creations that showcase your unique artistic vision both through the camera and on the screen.

DRONE FLIGHT SCHOOL
June 15-18*; 9am-12pm
$265
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 9am-12pm
$330

Welcome to Drone Flight School! At D.F.S., you and your team will be put in charge of our fleet of code-able drones. First up is pilot training, during which you will learn how to control the drones with the controller as well as with drag-and-drop coding. After pilot training, you'll get a chance to learn more about what these drones can do. From making decisions without input, avoiding obstacles, and knowing where they have landed using color-sensing technology, you'll begin to design and carry out missions ranging from navigating a city scape to search and rescue. Come join us for D.F.S. – no flight experience necessary! Three drones will be utilized throughout this class: Robolink's CoDrone EDU, the SYMA X5SW, and the DJI Mini 2.

REMINDER:
EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS
All camps end at 3pm on Fri-

InnovateHER
June 8-12; 9am-4pm
July 13-17; 9am-4pm
$595

Are you ready to unlock your inner innovator, creator, and problem-solver? Welcome to InnovateHER, a camp where science, technology, engineering, art, and math come together to inspire creativity, spark curiosity, and build confidence! Throughout this exciting week, we'll explore hands-on projects that highlight how innovation drives discovery across all STEAM fields from working with robots to designing artistic creations and solving real-world challenges. This camp is designed to shine a light on the incredible contributions of women in STEAM, past and present. We'll learn about trailblazing scientists, engineers, artists, and inventors who have shaped the world through their creativity and determination. Through their stories and our own experiments, we'll see how collaboration, imagination, and perseverance lead to discovery. By the end of the week, campers will gain new skills, fresh inspiration, and a deeper appreciation for the many ways people, especially women, are shaping the future of STEAM. Join us and become part of a community of curious minds ready to innovate, create, and make an impact!

INNOVATION LAB
June 8-12; 9am-12pm
July 6-10; 9am-12pm
$370

Welcome to the world of micro:bit! This little board can do it all, from driving motors and sensing the world around it to executing and interacting with the programs you can make using MakeCode, or Java and Python for those who want to take it a step farther. In this camp, we'll learn the basics of how to write simple programs with easy and forgivable drag-and-drop programming – no experience required! We'll then take those skills and use our building chops to take our inventions from the computer screen into the real world. Make your own invention that solves problems for you and your community. Want a machine that waters your plants for you? A fidget that changes as you use it? A device that tells you the temperature outside? These and many more inventions are possible starting with the micro:bit – come learn with us!

LEVEL UP! GAME DESIGN

June 1-5; 9am-12pm
July 20-24; 1-4pm
$330

Get ready to design, create, and play your own video games! In this week-long camp, middle school students will dive into the exciting world of game design using Flow Lab — an easy-to-use platform perfect for beginners and aspiring creators alike. Learn what makes a game fun and engaging as you explore storytelling, character development, digital art, and animation. Then, bring your ideas to life by building your own playable game! You'll experiment, test, and refine your designs through collaborative problem-solving and playtesting. By the end of the week, you'll have your very own game to share and a solid understanding of how creativity, coding, and design come together to make the games you love.

REMINDER:
EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS
All camps end at 3pm on Fridays.

PROGRAMMING WITH PYTHON

June 8-12; 1-4pm
July 6-10; 9am-12pm
$330

Learn Python—the fast, versatile programming language used by professionals worldwide! In this camp, students will explore core programming concepts and use them to create their own interactive games. From simple commands to more complex structures, campers will put their skills into action and see how coding can bring ideas to life.

Important Note: This camp is designed for beginner programmers. Students should know basic math (addition, multiplication, angles, measurements), which we'll connect to coding projects. Experienced Python users should consider our *Advanced Python* camp for a deeper challenge.

YOUR BRAIN AND ART

June 15-18*; 1-4pm
$265
*Note: This is a 4-day week.

July 13-17; 1-4pm
$295

How does your brain shape the way you see, feel, and create? In this hands-on, science meets art class, students will explore the surprising connections between neuroscience and creativity. Throughout the week, we'll investigate visual perception, optical illusions, emotions, sensory processing, decision making, and creative problem solving. Students will experiment with illusions, draw using "brain tricks," create textured mixed-media artwork, and design a final piece that blends scientific understanding with artistic expression. This camp is perfect for curious artists, budding scientists, and anyone who wants to understand the incredible brain behind their creativity.

ADVANCED PROGRAMMING WITH PYTHON

June 22-26; 9am-12pm
$330

Ready to take your Python skills to the next level? In this advanced camp, we'll move beyond the basics to explore how real programmers use Python to solve problems, create dynamic projects, and even automate tasks. Campers will dive into advanced coding concepts like functions, loops, conditionals, data structures, and object-oriented programming all while tackling fun, hands-on challenges. Throughout the week, we'll design and develop more complex games and interactive applications, applying logical thinking and creativity to bring our ideas to life. Along the way, we'll also explore how Python is used in fields like artificial intelligence, data analysis, and app development. *Prerequisite:* Prior experience with basic Python programming or completion of *Program with Python*.

NEW in 2026 for High School Students

STEM Pathfinders Program | $1,300

STEM Pathfinder Programs are two-week immersive experiences for rising 10th, 11th, or 12th grade students designed to explore diverse fields within biosciences or engineering at CU Boulder. As part of this program, STEM Pathfinders will also explore majors, student resources, and life on campus. Four participating CU departments will host students for two weeks, during which time they'll get an opportunity to dive in to hands-on activities, join lab tours, and engage in conversations with faculty and students.

Program Dates:

STEM PATHFINDERS: BIOSCIENCES June 1-12; 9:30am-3pm daily

STEM PATHFINDERS: ENGINEERING July 13-24; 9:30am-3pm daily

Online registration for the STEM Pathfinders Programs will begin on Monday, January 5 at 10am.

STEM Research Experience

JUNE 3 - JULY 31, 2026
(No class June 29-July 3)

In this 7-week program, CU Boulder and CU Anschutz faculty and graduate students mentor to highly motivated high school students interested in gaining real-world laboratory experience.

Program participants will learn:
- What it's like to be a scientific researcher
- The path to becoming a research scientist
- The process by which research is conducted
- How to probe data for answers to important questions

Visit the Science Discovery website for application information and timeline.

High School Classes

AEROSPACE

June 8-12; 9:30am-3pm
July 6-10; 9:30am-3pm
July 20-24; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Ofelia Miramontes and Leonard Baca Education Building

Sixteen CU Boulder astronaut affiliates have flown on forty space shuttle missions! Join some of the leaders in aerospace technologies in learning about what it takes to be an aerospace engineer. In this class, we'll meet scientists from CU studying orbits, imaging, and space exploration, as well as visit some CU aerospace landmarks. We'll pay a visit to the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), where we'll get a chance to see one of only a few university-based Mission Operations Centers, where LASP undergraduate and graduate students perform mission operations for NASA satellites totaling more than $1.5 billion in value. We'll explore Fiske Planetarium and see a full dome show and visit locations in our solar system and beyond with our world-class facility. As we work together throughout the week, we'll learn how humans understand and explore destinations in our night sky!

BIODIVERSITY IN COLORADO AND BEYOND: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF LIFE ON EARTH

June 8-12; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Ramaley Biology Building

Answer the call to adventure and uncover the mysteries of life on our planet! In this class, you'll learn how natural history can teach us about local organisms, inspire creative research, and connect us to the places we live. Get ready to take field trips to wild places in Colorado's Front Range, observe animals in their natural environments, and visit local museums to meet with experts cataloguing a wide variety of species. This course emphasizes hands-on learning, including identifying insects and preserving plants in the laboratory. Throughout the course, we'll also nurture our creativity through scientific illustration, all while garnering a deep connection to our local environment.

Special Note: This class will incorporate a number of field trips. The instructor team is currently working on developing a detailed schedule to provide to participants. Scheduled field trips will include the possible use of public transportation, walking (to locations that are walkable), and driving/carpooling to further locations (the furthest possibility currently being considered is the Butterfly Pavilion).

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FOR A CHANGING WORLD

July 6-10; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building

Get ready to dive into the exciting world of Chemical Engineering! This isn't about memorizing the periodic table or mixing chemicals – this is about engineering processes that power the world. In this immersive program, we'll learn how to design experiments, analyze data, and solve real-world challenges using creativity and cutting-edge tools. We'll explore how chemical engineers characterize a product and compare performance, optimize systems to make industries sustainable, and create processes to shape the future of energy, medicine, and technology. Through hands-on activities and fun experimental modules, we'll step into the shoes of an engineer, designing our own experiments and learning the art of problem-solving and innovation.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ROBOTICS

June 8-18; 9:30am-3pm (Note: There is no class on Friday, June 1
July 13-23; 9:30am-3pm (Note: There is no class on Friday, July 2
$1,270
Location: ATLAS Institute

Through hands-on experiments, programming design and development, we'll learn the basics of robot motions, sensors, and controls. Participants will have a chance to play with several robot platforms including Cubelets, Sphero, Dot and Dash, Redbot, and more. We'll get to use and take home our own SparkFun XRP, which includes a robot platform with a Raspberry Pi Pico W microcontroller. We'll assemble our XRP robot and complete a set of experiments, ranging from learning how to maneuver our robot to using sensors. We'll participate in group activities to design, build, and demonstrate our own robot projects. Upon completion of this course, participants will have gained an understanding of complex robot motion, sensing and control, as well as experience with mechanical and electrical design and construction of this unique robot.

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

June 22-July 10*; 9:30am-3pm
$1,300
*Note: This is a 2-week class; No class June 29-July 3
Location: ATLAS Institute

At the intersection of technology, engineering, and art, this class at the ATLAS institute will get you "hands-on" with your tech and expand your knowledge in the field of Human-Computer interaction. The course will take students on a tour of the ATLAS labs, while also gaining practical experience in the latest technologies and techniques in the human-computer interaction field. Learn the fundamentals of programming, circuitry, 3D design and printing in a lively, project-driven environment. Team up and create something completely new, such as an electronic musical instrument, a kinetic art installation, a piece of interactive clothing or a computerized toy. Building awesome stuff with tech and art has never been more fun, or more approachable. This class is perfect for students who are interested in design, toys, games, and music, or who are simply curious about the potential of technology to make a positive impact on our world.

CU PILOTS

June 22-26; 9:30am-3pm
July 13-17; 9:30am-3pm
$835
Location: Ofelia Miramontes and Leonard Baca Education Building

Have you ever wanted to fly a plane? Whether you dream of designing the next generation of aircraft or simply want to understand how humans take to the sky first hand, this program offers a full week of exploration, engineering, and flight. Boulder is home to pioneering research in aerospace and aeronautics, from next-generation aircraft design to world-class atmospheric science. Join university engineers, pilots, and researchers to explore what it takes to fly. Starting from the ground we will build up an understanding of lift, airfoils, airplanes, and flight dynamics. Students will design, build, and test their own balsa wood gliders, experiment with weather and navigation tools, and experience hands-on 'ground school' activities that prepare them to think like pilots. The week will culminate with a discovery flight offered by our partners at Journeys Aviation at Boulder Municipal Airport where you will get to sit in the pilot seat of a single engine two-seater aircraft with a local flight instructor.

BIOTECHNOLOGY: ENGINEERING BIOLOGY WITH POLYMERS

June 8-12; 9:30am-3pm
June 22-26; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building

Ever wondered how scientists can create new tissues, deliver life-saving drugs, or even use tiny enzymes to clean up pollution? It's all thanks to the amazing world of polymers! Polymers are long chains of repeating molecules, kind of like the beads on a candy necklace. In this hands-on experience, you will discover how polymers are being used to solve some of the world's biggest challenges. Learn how polymers are being used to carry medicine directly to where it's needed in the body. Create polymer scaffolds that support tissue healing and re-growth. Attach tiny enzymes (nature's catalysts) to polymers to create micro-factories that help us make medicines, fuel, and even food in a sustainable manner. Get ready to experiment with all this technology in a university lab. You'll even get to try scaling up production in bioreactors, just like scientists do in the pharmaceutical and food industries. Plus, you'll hear from real-world chemical and biological engineers about careers in this exciting field.

NEUROSCIENCE

June 8-12; 9:30am-3pm
July 6-10; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building

Our understanding of the brain has increased rapidly over the past few decades, but there are so many mysteries remaining in neuroscience. This course provides an introduction to the intersection of anatomy, physiology, genetics, development, and behavior, that is neuroscience. We will map out the key structures and functions of the brain and nervous system and investigate major topics such as sensory systems, learning, memory, behavior, and brain plasticity during development. We'll complete hands-on activities, experiments, laboratory tours, and guest presentations to learn how scientists conduct resaerch on the brain. By engaging in mini-experiments on topics like memory, sensory processing, and cognitive load we may gain some novel insights ourselves!

FORENSICS

June 22-26; 9:30am-3pm
July 20-24; 9:30am-3pm
$650
Location: Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building

To solve a case, detectives and forensic scientists work together to identify relevant data, analyze evidence, and draw sound conclusions. Become a forensic scientist for the week and put your skills to the test to solve a mock case. We'll make detailed observations to sketch a mock crime scene and review our persons of interest. We'll then use biology, chemistry, and physics to analyze evidence such as fingerprints, hair, blood, and DNA and perform a mock autopsy. By the end of the week, it will be up to your team to close the case by determining the cause, mechanism, and manner of death.

CU Anschutz Medical Campus GRADES 7-12

CURIOUS COMPOUNDS

Grades 7-9
June 8-12; 9am-4pm
$650

Discover the science behind substances that can harm or heal in Curious Compounds: From Toxins to Treatments! Learn about toxicology and pharmacology through exciting experiments with flatworms as you explore how chemicals affect living things. Practice real-world lab skills like pharmaceutical compounding and the use of toxicology and pharmacology to solve medical puzzles and criminal cases. This week is full of science, curiosity, and discovery where knowledge transforms toxins into treatments!

THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE: DNA IN ACTION

Grades 7-9
June 22-26; 9am-4pm
$650

We all depend on the letters D-N-A for life, but what is really spelled out by our genetic code? How do cells use DNA and how do scientists study it? During this camp, we will inspect the structure of DNA, investigate its function, and examine variations in its code. Activities will include fun hands-on experiments and medical case studies. No spelling tests! Join us for an exciting exploration of a molecule essential for human life!

THE MICROVERSE: PATHOGENS AND PROTECTORS

Grades 7-9
June 1-5; 9am-4pm
$650

Come learn about the wild world of microbes inside and outside of the human body. Whether they are making us sick or keeping us healthy, microbes have a tremendous impact on our everyday lives. Together we'll investigate bacteria and viruses and how we defend ourselves from them, and we'll try out microbiology laboratory techniques. This camp will give us a glimpse of what's happening in the invisible world of microbes all around us!

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BOOTCAMP

Grades 10-12
June 1-12*; 9am-4pm
*Note: This is a 2-week class.
$1,300

Do you have what it takes to be a biomedical scientist? Join us for a research-focused course at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Get a head start on your future coursework, internship, or research career with an introduction to biomedical laboratory techniques, visits to cutting edge facilities, exploring the ethics of biomedical research, learning about research careers, meeting scientists, and developing your own scientific research proposal. Students should be ready to adhere to safety guidelines, follow experimental protocols, and record data in lab notebooks. If you are ready to learn about how science solves health problems in a high-intensity workout for your brain, then this course is for you!

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS: ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

Grades 7-9
June 15-19; 9am-4pm
$650

Uncover how animals help us understand the world of science! In this hands-on class, we'll explore animal behavior, learn how scientists and animal care technicians work with lab animals, and even conduct our own experiments with pill bugs. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at careers involving laboratory animals and take a fascinating tour of the Anschutz Medical Campus animal facility. Come ready to observe, explore, and experience the incredible ways animals contribute to scientific discovery!

MEDICAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Grades 10-12
June 15-19; 9am-4pm
$650

Discover what it's like to step into the medical field in this engaging, week-long course for high school students. Participants will explore the science and practice of medicine through hands-on labs and demonstrations that may include physical exams, anatomy activities, suturing and injection practice, casting, ultrasound, and more. Throughout the week, students will have opportunities to interact with medical trainees and healthcare professionals while gaining insight into a variety of medical careers. This immersive experience offers a fun, realistic glimpse into the world of healthcare.

colorado.edu/sciencediscovery | scidisc@colorado.edu 303-492-7188 | 1560 30th St., Boulder

All programs on these pages will be held at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Please see website for complete location details.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register my child?

Simply click the registration button on any camp or class description page. You may also register for programs by phone or in-person.

When registering my child for a Science Discovery program, which grade level should I select?

Please select the rising grade level, meaning the grade level the child will be entering for the upcoming school year.

What is the Science Discovery cancellation and transfer policy?

Cancellations made more than 30 days prior to the start of the camp/class will incur a $35 administrative fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations made within 30 days of the start of the camp/class. In the event that a program is canceled by Science Discovery, registrants will receive a full refund.

Transfer requests made more than 30 days prior to the start of a camp/class will incur a $15 administrative fee. Transfer requests made within 30 days will incur a $35 administrative fee.

My child is 4. Are they permitted to join a Science Discovery camp?

Participants a required to have reached their 5th birthday by the start date of their first camp. All participants must be a minimum of 5 years of age to attend a Science Discovery camp.

Does Science Discovery offer scholarship support?

Yes, Science Discovery provides scholarships for many programs, depending on availability of funding and financial need. To apply, please submit a scholarship application as soon as you're able. Scholarship applications are accepted and awarded on a first-come, first-served rolling basis.

For a complete list of frequently asked questions, please visit the Science Discovery website.

My child is in a morning and an afternoon camp. Do I have to transport them in the middle of the day?

If your child is in a morning camp and an afternoon camp at the same location, Science Discovery provides free lunchtime supervision and will ensure they arrive safely at their afternoon camp. Locations are listed on the description page for every camp and class.

Does Science Discovery provide snacks or lunch?

No, Science Discovery is unable to provide snacks or lunch. All participants are required to bring 2 or more snacks daily (depending on the child's needs) and a sack lunch that does not require refrigeration (for full-day camps/classes only).

My child is waitlisted for a camp or class. How does the waitlist process work?

Science Discovery is unable to predict when a spot will open in a camp or class, as a spot will only become available if someone cancels out of a program. If a spot should become available, the first family on the waitlist will be notified by email. They will have approximately 72 hours to claim or pass on the spot. If they refuse the spot, the next family on the waitlist will be notified, and so on until all families have been notified. Once the waitlist has been exhausted, the spot will be made available to the public. Note: If you receive a waitlist notification email and do not take action within the specified time period, your child will be removed from the waitlist altogether.

Please do not call requesting to add additional students to a camp/class. Science Discovery adheres to camp and class enrollment caps for a number of reasons (safety, materials limitations, space constraints, etc.) and cannot make exceptions.

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