



YOUNG PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF FUN & UNIQUE PROGRAMS PENN STATE SUMMER CAMPS

By Bianca Barr
Penn State Outreach

Summertime is synonymous with summer camp. Whether it's sleep-away or just for the day, many children and teenagers spend their summer days learning new things and meeting new friends at camp.

Every year, more than 220,000 kids make great memories at camps on the University Park campus. A lot of them participate in sport camps, but did you know that Penn State also runs many camps that have nothing to do with athletics?

Let's tour a few of Penn State's specialty summer camps:

Music Camp

Red and blue chairs dot a large rehearsal room in the Music Building. Dozens of bulky, black instrument cases decorate the back corner as more than 100 teenagers in T-shirts and shorts perfect the intricate rhythms of Renaissance dance music.

Concert band rehearsal starts promptly at 8 a.m. and runs for two hours every day during Summer Music Camp in July. This intensive, seven-day camp requires seven hours of rehearsals and classes per day, along with recitals every evening.

"The camp is structured so that high school students can become better musicians," says Jayne Glocke, camp



Music Camp gives high school students a chance to experience firsthand what it is like to be a professional musician.

Above: Weather Camp participants react as a simulated rainfall is added to a floodplain model during their tour of the National Weather Service headquarters in State College.

coordinator. "They become aware of the world of music, what it is and what it has to offer."

The students can focus on five areas of study: concert or jazz band, orchestra, piano and choir. Passion runs deep for many of the 189 campers who attended this year's music camp, facilitated by Penn State Outreach.

Fourteen-year-old Allison, of Reading, says her voice is her instrument. At camp, she was expected to learn new pieces everyday, which led to an unexpected reaction: "I already could see myself using music as my career and now that I'm here, I know it's something I enjoy," she explains. "I never knew I could be so passionate about one thing."

Cooking Camp

Green peppers and onions sizzle in a large frying pan, permeating the kitchen classroom in Henderson Building with a tantalizing aroma. Young chefs, ages 11 to 14, scurry around the lab, moving at a frenetic, preteen pace. They stir, strain and sample. They mix

Continued on page 96



From page 54

and they measure. They chop as they cook European and Mediterranean dishes.

"The children work with fruits and vegetables purchased from local farmers and make dishes they can try and enjoy," says Anne Quinn Corr, chef and camp director of "Cook like a Chef Cooking Camp — The Ethnic Chef."

The day camp has attracted two dozen campers, mostly from central Pennsylvania. Twelve-year-old Luke, of Bellefonte, returned for a second year.

"I'm making so many new dishes that I never knew about," he declares, as he squeezes fresh lemon juice into a metal bowl for a dish called Siberian Gypsy Chicken. "Now, I can go home and cook for my family."

At 14 years old, Mia is one of the oldest campers. She bounces around the kitchen with the confidence of an experienced chef. Mia says she's learned food presentation skills this summer and is more comfortable making complicated recipes.

"I'm proud of what I make at the camp," she says. "I like the fact that people enjoy the food we prepare."

Science of Toys Camp

A blue cotton shroud drapes the classroom door at Chambers Building with an ominous message taped to it: SECRET DOOR! PLEASE DO NOT USE.

Further investigation reveals Walter Winkel's Wonder Workshop, a place where imagination is required and toys are dissected and created on a daily basis. Scientists-in-training, no more than 8 years old, are assisting Dr. Winkel at the Science of Toys camp. The Doctor, whimsically dressed in tie-dye, looks a lot like Stephen Van Hook, lecturer in physics at Penn State.

Dr. Winkel's factory was going out of business and he needed new hires to keep the creativity flowing. About 25 day campers accepted the job. The camp, hosted by Science U through the Eberly College of Science, is a pilot program and offers children an informal science education mixed with curiosity and fun.

"You are never too young to learn science. If you have an interest at a young age, you'll learn more," affirms Sam Smeal, a camp mentor and junior studying elementary education. "Your knowledge will just soar."

Dr. Winkel's assistants are spending an afternoon making spring toys out of cereal boxes and are running into some problems with their inventions. Eight-year-old Nate, of State College, refers to a handwritten sign on the wall — "Expect Failure" — as he struggles to get enough spring-loaded action into his jack-in-the-box for it to work.

Dave Cole



Dr. Walter Winkel, a.k.a. physics instructor Stephen Van Hook, gives campers the opportunity make toys from simple, everyday objects in the Science of Toys Camp.



At the end of every "Cook Like a Chef" session, campers get to sample all of the dishes.

"Sometimes things don't work the first time," he says. "If you don't do it right, it won't work. So, keep trying and don't give up."

Architecture Camp

More than 50 high school students get a crash course in architecture as they learn technique, process and time-man-

agement at the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Summer Camp. Students sit at drafting desks in the first-year studio in the Stuckeman Family Building. The campers are building three-dimensional models with chipboard and tacky glue before they know what type of buildings they will be. Later,

they will use their imaginations to put function into the spaces they created.

"This is the closest thing to immersion within the discipline," points out Sean Burkholder, camp instructor and assistant professor of landscape architecture. "The campers are serious about it even though it's an overwhelming few days of work."

Campers have the opportunity to travel to Fallingwater for a tour of the house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and also to spend a lot of time examining the architecture and landscape architecture of the University Park campus.

Mary, a 16-year-old from Boiling Springs, has been interested in architecture for several years and attended the summer camp so that she could experience the kinds of activities that take place in a university's professional design program.

"I liked the blend — a taste of lectures, tours, seminars and crafts," she says. "We experienced the life of an architect."

And So Much More

There are lots of other camps to pique your child's interest. He or she can explore journalism, film or television news at the Communications Camps; learn to forecast the weather at Weather Camp; study animals and nature at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center's Discovery and Explorer Camps; and get hands-on experience in modern beef production at Youth Beef Cow Camp. Plus many more.

Visit Outreach's summer camps website at <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/youth/to> get started. With all these choices, there's a summer camp just right for your child at Penn State.

For More Information

Penn State Outreach Summer Youth Programs:
www.outreach.psu.edu/youth/

Architecture Camp:
www.outreach.psu.edu/youth/architecture/

Communications Camps:
www.outreach.psu.edu/communications-camps/

Cooking Camp:
www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/cooking-camp/

Music Camps:
www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/music-camps/

Science Camps:
www.sciencecamps.psu.edu/

Shaver's Creek Research & Discovery Camps:
www.outreach.psu.edu/shaverscreek/index-camps.html

Sports Camps:
www.gopsusports.com/camps/home.html

Weather Camp:
www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/weather-camp/

Youth Beef Cow Camp:
www.das.psu.edu/4h/beef/dairy-days-cow-camp