Summer Camps at the Oakes Museum

We are excited to welcome elementary, middle, and high school students to the Oakes Museum for day camps during summer 2022. Scholarships are available, contact oakesmuseum@messiah.edu for more information.

3rd-5th grades
June 27 – July 1: Explore It! Curators Club Day Camp
9 a.m. to noon at the Oakes Museum, $125*
Each day we will investigate a different topic, ranging from fossils to the sun to following a raindrop on its path across campus. Join us as we Explore It!

July 18 - 22: Animals! Curators Club Day Camp
9 a.m. to noon at the Oakes Museum, $125*
Using the museum and the surrounding natural world, each day campers will learn about a different animal group (invertebrates, fish, reptiles/amphibians, birds and mammals).

6th-8th grades
July 5-9: Ecology CC2 Day Camp
9 a.m. to noon at the Oakes Museum, $125*
The world is complex! Learn about the interactions between different life forms and their environments with hands on observations and experiments in the museum and the living laboratory of campus.

*Before camp care will be available for the above three camps from 8-9:00 a.m. Games, puzzles, crafts will be provided with staff oversight. The cost for before camp care is an additional $25/week.

8th-12th grades
Our high school day camps offer students entering 9th-12th grades a unique opportunity to learn in the field and lab. Qualified museum staff will lead each session, and college professors and professionals will offer their expertise as guest speakers. Lunch is included – we will eat in the university cafeteria or provide bag lunches to eat in the field.

June 13 - 14: Herpetology High School Day Camp
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., $150
Camp includes a frog dissection.

June 16 – 17: Aquatic Biology High School Day Camp
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., $150
Learn about collecting terrestrial insects in the field, preparing insects for permanent preservation and display, sampling techniques used by aquatic biologists and how ecologists assess water quality.

June 20 - 21: Forest Ecology High School Day Camp
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., $150
Learn about forest ecology in the field, learning how to view the forest sampling techniques used by aquatic biologists and how ecologists assess water quality.

June 23 - 24: Vertebrate Anatomy High School Day Camp
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., $175
Learn dissecting skills and use them to gain an overview of vertebrate anatomy by comparing the organ systems and specializations of a variety of representative vertebrates. Students will dissect a variety of vertebrates including: frog, shark and fetal pig. Labs will involve microscopy and tissue examination, along with a variety of other hands-on activities.

Space is limited, so register early at https://www.messiah.edu/oakes

Camper safety is our highest priority. In accordance with current CDC and Messiah University guidelines, masking and physical distancing will be required. Messiah University reserves the right to cancel camp if necessary in order to comply with local, state, and federal guidelines and recommendations.