BUG SCIENCE

Mondays, September 9-December 9 (no class October 14, or November 4 and 25; 11 weeks)
11:00am-12:15pm
Ages 8-10

Explore what it means to be an Entomologist, and get an up close look of your local area through insect collection and identification. Students learn the biology, ecology and anatomy of bugs through field and lab observation, experimentation, microscopy and dissection. All lab costs are included in registration fee. Course enrollment is limited to 12 students.

Instructor: Katie, Sheffield, BSc
Location: Science Center (suite 5)
Course fee: $200 OR $20/lab
10% off early registration discount through July 31
10% off sibling discount available beginning August 1

LAB SCHEDULE:

Insect Classification – Monday, September 9
In our introductory workshop, students learn about different groups of insects and their characteristics (beetles versus butterflies, for example), and we search for as many insect orders as we can find in a decomposing log.

Bug Anatomy and Adaptations – Monday, September 16
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.

Creating an Insect Collection – Monday, September 23
We start a mini-museum collection of insects as we learn the proper collection methods, tools, and preservation strategies of entomologists (scientists who study insects).

Insect Life Cycles – Monday, September 30
Students compare and contrast the life cycles of different insects, learn each developmental stage (and how some terrestrial insects have aquatic larvae!), and create a habitat for butterfly metamorphosis.

Bug Habitats and Gardens – Monday, October 7
We focus on habitat preferences of bugs, and learn how to create a garden that attracts beneficial insects during specific stages of their life cycle.

Pollination – Monday, October 21
This week we 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.

Insect Host Plants – Monday, October 28
Many insects rely on specific host plants during certain stages of their lives for food, habitat or to lay their eggs. This week we study these relationships, including the importance of milkweed to monarch butterflies.

Crime-Solving Bugs – Monday, November 11
This week students become Forensic Entomologists, and learn how the pattern of insect development can assist solving crimes and mysteries.

Ladybug Science – Monday, November 18
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.

Common Pests – Monday, December 2
This week we look at insects that are considered pests due to the fact that they cause harm or damage to other organisms or property. We investigate disease vectors, as well as critters that infest our homes.

Insects Around the World – Monday, December 9
Insects are found on every continent, but the species vary depending on habitat and climate. In this lab, we investigate insects around the world, including huge bugs found in Australia to the tiny insect of Antarctica.