



## Summer Learning Institute Program Course Outline

### **Backyard Naturalist**

Young explorers will discover the beauty and mysteries of the natural world in their very own back yards. Campers will unleash their creativity through nature-themed arts and crafts projects. Take a trip through Tuscawilla Nature Preserve and gather your own natural history objects. Learn about the Museum's extensive collection of specimens that range from insects and bones to teeth and other objects.

All program classes are organized to address the following aspects:

- STEM/STEAM Education.
- Cultivate an interest in Art, Science, and History.
- Continued knowledge and comprehension regarding Volusia County School Standards.
- Develop interpersonal skills such as teamwork and problem solving.
- Foster curiosity and imagination of the world around us.

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Date:** June 24-28

**Software/Materials/Books/Media:** Handouts and materials provided in class.

*Exhibits/Galleries that correspond with camp:*

- Children's museum
- Pre-History of Florida
- Planetarium
- Sensory Garden near Tuscawilla Nature Preserve
- Tide Pools (Presented by Expert Reserve Services)
- Megalodon: The Largest Shark that Ever Lived (Presented by Wagner the Lawyer Dude)

## Course Objectives:

Students will:

- Use microscopes in the Children's Museum to view different insects.
- Learn about different plants, animals, and insects commonly found in their backyard or nearby natural areas.
- Learn how to identify and tell the difference between different species.
- Learn about pollinators.
- Learn how to tell how old a tree is.
- Learn about recycling.
- Learn about the Giant ground sloth and other pre-historic animals that once lived in Florida.
- Learn different parts of a flower.
- Learn the difference between mammals and reptiles.

## 5 Day Course Outline Example:

Schedules must consider, lunch time, snack time, free play, and lessons in the gallery. All movies/shows must be approved by MOAS staff prior to viewing.

- Day One: Story time, how water travels through plants experiment, parts of a flower activity, Spritz and Spray Nature Craft, I Spy nature activity in Tuscawillia, handprint flower craft.
- Day Two: Story Time, microscopes in children's museum, butterfly life cycle necklace, hands on pollinator activity, caterpillar changing to butterfly craft (popsicle sticks), bee craft.
- Day Three: Story time, Spritz and Spray Earth craft, Planetarium, Hands on Recycling activities, Color by Number Earth Day coloring sheet, Cloud Spotter Science Activity, Rain Cloud in a Jar experiment.
- Day Four: Story time, Lesson in Pre-history gallery, what is a fossil lesson, hands on fossils in class, Mammals vs Reptiles activity, Tree ring lesson.
- Day Five: Story time, Dino dig (either a sensory bin or place toys in water and freeze over night for them to excavate – outdoor activity), watercolor resist painting, Tuscawillia/outside scavenger hunt.

## Assessment:

Student's ability to demonstrate the following:

1= Below Expected Outcome

3= Meets Expected Outcome

5=Exceeds Expected Outcome

The Student Has:	1	2	3	4	5
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of plant life					
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of mammal vs. reptile					
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of what fossils are					