



Summer Academies 2024



Things to Know

Camps offer new themes and activities each year. For example, students who attended Space Academy last year can come back this summer for all new material! Some students take the "same camp" 3 or 4 years in a row, with fresh curriculum each summer.

Where do camps take place?

We run camp out of Wydown Middle School in Clayton, MO. The address is 6500 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105.

Does my child have to be in the gifted program to attend GRC's Summer Academies?

Definitely not! All bright and talented students enjoy our programs.

Is the program all work and no play?

No! We do challenge kids academically, but GRC is known for engaging children in hands-on activities and encouraging friendships among like-minded peers. Physical activity and recess are part of every day's schedule.

Do you offer Extended Day Care?

Yes! Before Care is 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. and costs \$95/session. After Care is 3:30 - 5:30 and costs \$125/session.

What should my child bring?

A non-refrigerated lunch (with drink) and a willingness to learn and have fun! We strongly discourage electronic devices.

What else should I know?

Every child gets a GRC camp t-shirt.

Pictures will be taken during Summer Academies, and may be used for promotional purposes. If you do not want your child's photo used, please contact the office in writing before the start of camp.

Lead Summer Instructors

Lead Content Instructors are all certified teachers with gifted experience.

Chuck Baker, M.S., Gifted certified, Math teacher, Maplewood-Richmond Heights District, 8th year Space Academy; 6th year ECO Academy

Sara Beg, Ed.D., Librarian, Ferguson-Florissant District, 2nd year Stop-Motion Animation

Nancy Brennan, B.S., Gifted specialist, 25th year Math, Marvels & More

Chris Chisholm, M.Ed., Middle school science teacher, Clayton District, 2nd year Ancient Academy

Rick Hasler, M.A., Gifted specialist, Parkway District, 9th year Ancient Academy

Lisa Hummel, M.A., Middle school science teacher, Ferguson-Florissant District, 20th year Space Academy

Katie Lambdin, M.Ed., Gifted specialist, Pattonville District, 2nd year Math, Marvels & More

Rebecca Lee, M.A., Elementary teacher, Ferguson-Florissant District, 2nd year Novel Engineering

Abby Leeper, M.A., Middle school gifted teacher, St. Charles District, 11th year Jr. Science Searchers

Albert Leeper, A.S., St. Charles District, 5th year PT

Michael Mahon, M.A., Middle school teacher, Rockwood District, 2nd year Ancient Academy; 2nd year Animal Academy

How to Apply

1. **Fill out application online** and pay either via PayPal (processing fees apply) or check. If student is not accepted to camp, payment is refundable less a \$25 application fee.
2. **Give Teacher Evaluation form** (or online link) to teacher who knows student best.
3. **Submit a copy** of most recent standardized test score (ERB, MAP, WISC, etc.). *Students who have not taken standardized tests may submit a recent report card.*
4. **Email all correspondence** to info@giftedresourcecouncil.org

or mail to

Gifted Resource Council
10425 Old Olive Street Rd., Ste. LL1
St. Louis, MO 63141

5. **Refund policy:** If camper withdraws before May 10, fees are refundable except \$25 application fee. Between May 10 and June 10, 50% of fees may be refunded. No refunds are made after camp starts on June 10.



Andy Mills, M.Ed., Special education teacher, St. Charles District, 2nd year PT

Emily Mills, M.A.T., Middle school teacher, St. Charles District, 1st year Creative Writing Academy

Kathleen Murphy, M.Ed., Science teacher, 16th year Math, Marvels & More

Hannah Noack-Ruebling, M.A., Gifted teacher, Hazelwood District, 4th year ECO Academy; 4th year Space Academy

Susan Schneider, M.A., Gifted teacher, Hazelwood District, 20th year Academy Americana

Jen Sciuto, M.A., Elementary teacher, 11th year Jr. Science Searchers

Kristen Soifer, M.A., Preschool teacher, Samuel Preschool, 1st year Enviro-Academy

Suzanne Tesson, M.S., PK-8 Health/PE teacher, St. Mary's Catholic School, 2nd year PT

Kara Viviano, B.A., Elementary teacher, St. Louis Public Schools, 3rd year Space Academy

Barb Wnek, M.Ed., P.E. teacher, 37th year PT

Carrie Ziolkowski, M.A., Gifted teacher, Hazelwood District, 19th year Academy Americana

Nick Zuccarello, M.S., P.E. teacher, St. Charles District, 3rd year PT

Math, Marvels & More

Entering 1st - 3rd grades

Liquid States, Number Traits & Creative Greats Experience three camps in one each day as you explore Math, Science and Creative Expression! Can you count without numbers or calculate without place value? Have you ever made and interpreted a Peruvian *quipu* or added in Babylonian? How would you do math without a zero? Math didn't just happen; it had to be invented. Match wits with the ancients as we explore number systems from all corners (and time periods) of the globe.

Snow in the summertime? Fossilized raindrops? Chemical reactions with water? Discover what can creep up the side of a glass, create its own drops, rise above the rim of a glass without spilling, and expand as it freezes. We'll explore the science in chromatography, surface tension, adhesion, cohesion, and more—all measuring up to FUN!

Get creative with some of the math and science concepts you're learning! Design sea monsters for our nautical seascape! Make bubble art. Investigate how famous artists used math. All the while, looking for the answer to the ultimate life question: How do you fit inside a bubble? (Students will be divided into age-appropriate groups and curriculum adjusted accordingly.)

Stop Motion Animation

Entering 2nd - 3rd grades

Lights! Camera! Action! Directing, storytelling, building, editing, designing! In this high-energy, hands-on camp, you'll use all these skills to create your own mini movies using stop motion animation and iPads. We'll start off using LEGOS and then step it up to using Play Dough or actual people. You'll create characters, props, scenery & sound effects! Add in your own music or voice. We'll also watch clips of different styles of stop motion animation for inspiration and to see how the pros do it. Explore your creativity while learning technical skills! The grand finale will be a mini film festival to premiere everyone's creations.

ECO Academy

Entering 4th - 9th grades

ECONomics + ECO-logy Create your own sustainable pop-up business! Look at everyday products and their carbon footprints. How can companies minimize this? What about your own? Handle all the real-world aspects of this camp's pop-up business: finance, sales, marketing & production. Learn about the effects of your product on the environment. How can we lessen those? What are low-impact ways to create a high-impact product? Examine cash flow and stock distributions (and play the Stock Market Game!). What will your sustainable business model look like? Create a website to advertise and sell your product. Find environmentally friendly ways to package and distribute. Scientific inquiry, advertising art, decision-making skills, financial and mathematical interests—bring any and all of these talents to ECO Academy!

Animal Academy

Entering 4th - 9th grades

Petkeeping to Zookeeping: Past, Present and Future This year we'll be continuing our deep dive into all things animal, with some new twists and turns! From simple questions like what animals we like and why, we'll look at how petkeeping has evolved over time, and what draws humans to animals—and which ones! Are there safe, sustainable ways to bring nature into your home? You'll build a pint-size terrarium to keep (as well as explore examples of how to build fish tanks and vivariums). How do our decisions as humans impact the planet and animal life? What could we do differently? Is there a cost if things remain the same? We'll look at the Association of Zoos & Aquariums sustainable breeding programs: how do we ensure wildlife is here for generations to come? We'll get out into the environment as well with nature walks and hopefully a field trip or two to Missouri State Parks.

Creative Writing Academy - NEW!

Entering 5th - 9th grades

Storytelling through Poetry & Novel Writing WANTED: Book lovers. Creative writers. Dig deep into your imagination and experiences to create stories. Learn how to plan out your writing, and develop your characters. Learn about different kinds of poetry and read and create a variety of poems. Participate in a poetry slam to celebrate each camper's writing. We will also celebrate diversity in literature, investigating authors (and their characters!) from many different backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, using read alouds and multi-media experiences. Learn what led these amazing authors to write and where they get their inspirations. Learn about the importance of a writing community and supporting each other to produce the best writing you can. Put your imagination in print!

Physical Training An integral part of each Summer Academy experience is activity and movement. Our PT (Physical Training) gets campers up and moving with a variety of activities. Each camper gets at least 45 minutes of PT daily, in addition to a 20-minute recess after lunch.

Session 2: June 24 - July 5 (No camp on July 4)

Jr. Science Searchers

Entering 1st grade

From Dinosaurs to Tropical Rainforests Don your paleontologist hat for dinosaur explorations! Hatch a dinosaur egg, while considering carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Explore continental drift. Construct fossils and explore body types and teeth structures of dinosaurs. How did they evolve in the different geologic periods? How did their bodies change from fish-like creatures to a tyrannosaurus rex? What made them all extinct? Then join the 'safari' as we locate tropical rainforests on a map. Why is the rainforest important? How do plants, as well as animals like monkeys, bats and frogs, survive? Make your own tropical spice blend. What other rainforest resources do we use every day? Lots of hands-on activities and projects.

Enviro-Academy - NEW!

Entering 2nd - 3rd grades

The Birds and the Trees A brand new camp! This year, we'll look at topics like how do trees communicate? What exactly do birds feed their hatchlings? In what ways do trees support birds? Discover the answers to these and other questions about our feathered friends and arboreal neighbors. We'll also create our own GRC herbarium specimens, make urban bird nests, and chart which birds frequent our camp bird feeder. Be prepared to spend some time outside every morning and find out how we all can support the trees and birds in our sub/urban environment and why it is important to us humans to make sure that the birds and the trees survive and thrive.

GRC's Space & Advanced Space Academy

Entering 2nd - 9th grades

Making Space for Everyone When we think of space exploration, we often think of names like Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. But what invaluable contributions to space science do less well-known people make? We'll take a look at trailblazing black women like Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson—the women of *Hidden Figures*. Who will be on the launch pad for Artemis—the U.S.'s most diverse crew ever? Did you know that NASA plans to send the first woman and the first person of color to the moon? Design your own space suit or structures for the Artemis crews to survive on the moon. And of course, it wouldn't be Space Academy without creating/coding some LEGO robots, and building/launching model rockets! (Students will be divided into smaller groups by grade, and curriculum adjusted accordingly. Advanced Space Academy will be for grades 7 - 9.)

Stop Motion Animation

Entering 4th - 5th grades

Cut! Take Two! We'll cover the basics of stop motion animation techniques and then dive deeper into directing, storytelling, building, editing, and designing! There will be daily challenges to learn different techniques to incorporate into one final film complete with a full story, dialogue, and main characters. The grand finale will be a mini film festival to premiere everyone's creations. If you were in the younger class last summer, come back and build on your skills, learn more advanced techniques, and create more complex movies! And if you weren't, we'll quickly get you caught up and making movies.

Ancient Academy

Entering 4th - 9th grades

How to Build the World's Largest Empire in 3 Easy Steps! (Steppes?) How does one build the world's largest empire? Raid, subjugate and collect taxes, of course! Campers will investigate the rise of Mongol leader Ghengis Khan, as he united nomadic tribes and conquered large swaths of Asia and China. What sort of battle strategies were used? Build a shield or saddle! Create a war banner. The (in)famous battle game from last summer will return as countries fight for domination. We'll look at daily life, build a yurt, and put on a play! (No camp on July 4.)

Financial Aid

Limited financial aid is available based on need. An application is available online, or you may contact the office for more information. Applications due no later than April 30, 2024; however, requests are reviewed as they come in to the office, so sooner is generally better.

Linda McCall Scholarship

If you're a top student entering grades 7 - 9 and have a strong interest in science, consider applying for the Linda McCall Merit Scholarship—full tuition to Advanced Space Academy offered by the GRC Board of Directors. Download an application from the GRC website. Applications MUST be received by April 15, 2024.

Jr. Science Searchers

Entering 1st grade

From Ocean Depths to Outer Space Plunge into the mysteries of the ocean. Meet sea animals, large and small, friendly and dangerous. How do their babies live? Make edible aquariums. How is a coral reef like a giant apartment building? Clean up a mini oil spill and find out how we can protect the ocean. Then explore the sun, moon, planets and stars! Create a replica of the surface of the moon. Look at its sea, volcanoes and Apollo landings, and build your own miniature 'moon rover.' How far can you jump on the moon? Calculate your weight on other planets. Harness the energy of the sun in your solar oven to roast toasty marshmallows.

Novel Engineering

Entering 2nd - 3rd grades

Read, Design, Build! Stories & Structures! Dialogue & Design! Plans & Plots! Like to read? Like to build? In this high-touch, hands-on camp you'll read a broad range of texts and identify problems that characters face. You'll brainstorm solutions based on the character's needs and constraints of the text. Then work with your team to design and build realistic solutions for the characters to use. But you're not finished! Test your solution, then refine it to make it even better! Collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking are key elements. Problem solve with your favorite characters in this "novel" summer camp! Did you take this last summer? Come on back—we'll have new stories and some new materials to work with. (Novel Engineering is an approach originally developed by Tufts University to teach students the engineering process and link it to problems to fix, all through engaging literature.)

Academy Americana

Entering 2nd - 4th grades

Pack Your Wagon - We're Headed West! Grab your gear, whittle down your stock, and get ready: We're heading west! Use an authentic packing list from the 1800s, and pack your own "Conestoga wagon." What games will you play on the trail? Will you make it to Oregon or die of dysentery? What if you already lived out west? What was your life and culture like? From trailblazing to homesteading, experience pioneer living and make butter, toys, quilts, and crafts. Be part of the Gold Rush: Will you strike it rich? Explore the diaries of pioneers like Lewis and Clark and their guide, Sacagawea. Will their journals give us clues as we try modern-day geocaching? Explore fables and legends of the 1800s and examine the consequences of America's westward expansion. Seek your fortune on the frontier!

GRC's Space & Advanced Space Academy

Entering 2nd - 9th grades

Summer Syzygy! With both a total and an annular eclipse of the sun this year (and what's the difference anyway?), we'll focus on the sun and the moon this summer. We'll dive deep into types of eclipses and orbits and build eclipse models. We'll also learn about umbral cones, paths of totality, when eclipses occur and what syzygy means! We'll examine sunspots and the surprising effects of solar activity here on Earth. Re-create a retroreflector experiment left on the moon by Apollo 11 astronauts, which has taught us that the moon is slowly moving away from the Earth. We'll take a look at eclipse stories from different cultures. And of course, it wouldn't be Space Academy without creating/coding some LEGO robots, and building/launching model rockets! (Students will be divided into smaller groups by grade, and curriculum adjusted accordingly. Advanced Space Academy will be for grades 7 - 9.)

Ancient Academy

Entering 4th - 9th grades

The Legacy of the Khan—World Domination Ghengis Khan died in 1227, but the Mongolian Empire he created lived on. From a period of unity to one of separate empires, what did the Mongol world look like post-Khan? How did his successors rule and fight? What role did horses play? What are the lasting achievements of the Mongols? And are they remembered as heroes or villains? The battle game will continue and we'll add in a trade and expansion game. Choose your own Mongol adventure with "Obey Me or Die." And we'll celebrate the session's close with a Mongolian feast!



Teacher Evaluation Form

(Form may also be completed online: tinyurl.com/GRCSTL)



Child's Name _____ Grade _____

School _____ District _____

Your name _____ Phone # _____

Capacity in which you know the child _____

We are asking for a few moments of your time to help us evaluate the above-named student as a candidate for our summer program for bright and talented students. As an education professional who works closely with this student, you are in the best position to provide the kind of information that we need to ensure a positive experience for our students. Please fill out the rating scale and return it to us as quickly as possible. Applicants cannot be considered for admission until your evaluation is received. If you have any questions regarding any Gifted Resource Council program or the completion of this form, please call us at 314-962-5920.

Please rate from 1 (disagree) to 5 (agree)	1	2	3	4	5
Has unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level					
Has quick mastery and recall of factual information					
Has a rapid insight into cause-effect relationship; tries to discover the <i>how</i> and <i>why</i> of things					
Is a keen and alert observer; usually sees more and gets more out of a story, video, etc., than others					
Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems; is persistent in seeking task completion (is sometimes difficult to get moving on to another topic)					
Is comfortable working with minimal direction from teachers					
Is quite concerned with right and wrong, good and bad; often evaluates and passes judgment on events, people and things					
Displays a great deal of curiosity about many things; is constantly asking questions about anything and everything					
Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems and questions; often offers unusual, unique, or clever responses					
Displays a keen sense of humor and sees humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others					

How would you describe this child academically in your class? _____

How would you describe this child behaviorally in your class? _____

Is there anything else that would be helpful for us to know about this child? _____

Please return this form to info@giftedresourcecouncil.org, or you can mail to:

Gifted Resource Council, 10425 Old Olive Street Rd., Ste. LL1, Creve Coeur, MO 63141.

Thank you!

Summer Academies 2024 Application

Child's name: _____ Age: _____ Birthdate: _____ Gender: _____

Grade in Fall 2024? _____ School _____ District _____

First time applicant? ☐ Yes ☐ No T-Shirt: ☐ Youth S ☐ Youth M ☐ Youth L ☐ Adult SM ☐ Adult M ☐ Adult L

Address (Street/City/State/Zip): _____

Parent/Guardian #1 Name: _____ Preferred phone: _____

Email: _____ Employer & occupation: _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Name: _____ Preferred phone: _____

Email: _____ Employer & occupation: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (if parents can't be reached):

Name/relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Physician & phone: _____

Allergies or medical limitations: _____

Other considerations of which we should be aware? _____

Please select your child's camp choice(s) from the list(s) below:

June 10 - 21 (no camp June 19)

- ☐ Math, Marvels & More
- ☐ Stop Motion Animation
- ☐ ECO Academy
- ☐ Animal Academy
- ☐ Creative Writing Academy

June 24 - July 5 (no camp July 4)

- ☐ Jr. Science Searchers
- ☐ Enviro-Academy
- ☐ Stop Motion Animation
- ☐ Space/Adv Space Academy
- ☐ Ancient Academy

July 8 - July 19

- ☐ Jr. Science Searchers
- ☐ Academy Americana
- ☐ Novel Engineering
- ☐ Space/Adv Space Academy
- ☐ Ancient Academy

Tuition for each 2-week session is \$540 for most camps and \$550 for Space. Early bird registration (before Jan. 28) is \$515 or \$525 for Space.

**Before care: \$95/session
After care: \$125/session**

How did you learn about GRC? _____

Race/ethnicity (optional, but useful for GRC when applying for grants!) - please choose any/all that apply:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ White ☐ Hispanic/Latino/a
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ☐ Other or additional info: _____

GRC Membership

Becoming a member of Gifted Resource Council will help us improve existing programs, extend offerings and reach more children. You also receive benefits like priority registration, program discounts, and free parenting classes. It's quick, easy and tax-deductible. Sign up by returning the form to the GRC Office or register online. Memberships are valid for one year.

Wise Philanthropist (\$1,000+)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- FREE Learning Lab course
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Learning Lab scholarship in your name at your request
- Use of GRC library
- GRC logo lapel pin

Brilliant Benefactor (\$500 - \$999)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- FREE Learning Lab course
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Learning Lab scholarship in your name at your request
- Use of GRC library

Talented Patron (\$250 - \$499)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- \$50 discount off a Summer Academy
- Use of GRC library

Sharp Sponsor (\$150 - \$249)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- \$25 discount off a Summer Academy
- Use of GRC library

Intelligent Friend (\$100 - \$149)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- \$10 off two Learning Lab courses
- Use of GRC library

Gifted Member (\$60 - \$99)

- Priority registration for all programs
- FREE parenting classes (\$160 value)
- Use of GRC library

Imaginative Institution (\$100)

- For schools and other institutions
- Recognition in newsletters and on website

Total Fees Enclosed

Tuition _____

Extended Day _____

☐ Before Care (\$95/session) _____

☐ After Care (\$125/session) _____

Membership (optional) _____

Extra t-shirt (\$10 - optional) _____

Scholarship donation (optional) _____

☐ I have read and understood the refund policy on page 2 of this brochure.

TOTAL: _____

Please make check payable to:
Gifted Resource Council

Return form to: Gifted Resource Council, 10425 Old Olive Street Rd., Ste. LL1 St. Louis, MO 63141



10425 Old Olive Street Rd., LL1
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
giftedresourcecouncil.org

2024 Summer
Academies
Registration
now open!

Summer Schedule

(Grades entering in Fall 2024)

June 10 - June 21	Math, Marvels & More (1 st - 3 rd) Stop Motion Animation (2 nd - 3 rd) ECO Academy (4 th - 9 th) Animal Academy (4 th - 9 th) Creative Writing Academy (5 th - 9 th)
June 24 - July 5	Jr. Science Searchers (1 st) Enviro-Academy (2 nd - 3 rd) Stop Motion Animation (4 th - 5 th) Ancient Academy (4 th - 9 th) GRC's Space/Adv Space Academy (2 nd - 9 th)
July 8 - July 19	Jr. Science Searchers (1 st) Novel Engineering (2 nd - 3 rd) Academy Americana (2 nd - 4 th) Ancient Academy (4 th - 9 th) GRC's Space/Adv Space Academy (2 nd - 9 th)

Time 9:00 - 3:30 Camp
7:30 - 9:00 Before Care \$95/session
3:30 - 5:30 After Care \$125/session

Place Wydown Middle School
6500 Wydown Blvd.
Clayton, MO 63105

Cost \$540 per 2-week session (\$550 for
Space Academy)
\$515 early bird before Jan. 28 (\$525
for Space Academy)

Lunch Please bring a non-refrigerated lunch
and drink each day.

