

# EXPLORE WITH US!



The YMCA School Age Learning Sites offer an exciting and fun initiative – **The Y Explorer Program!** The curriculum builds on traditional School Age activities with special lessons, field trips, guest speakers and more! Every few weeks there will be new themes designed to get students engaged with and exploring different topics, cultures and subjects! Join us this school year and explore the unknown!

## Explorations Through the Unknown

### **Rainforest-ology (Feb 6-17)**

Dodge poison dart frogs, listen for howler monkeys, and discover plants used in modern medicine as you travel through the rainforest. Children uncover the secrets of the rainforest through hands-on experiments, learn the importance of conservation through exploration, and gain appreciation for one of the earth's most amazing habitats!

### **DuckTape-ology (Feb 20-24)**

What can you use to fix a broken flip-flop, curl your hair, and create an entire outfit from? DUCKTape of course! Students will experience everything DUCKtape as they create patterns, "upcycle" craft projects, and put their design skills to the test when they design their own wearable art.

### **Color-ology (Feb 27-Mar 10)**

Why does an apple look red? What makes the sky blue? Students will explore basic design principles of art as they create new colors and express themselves through , construct an instrument called a color analyzer. They will use their color analyzer to decode secret messages.

### **Break-ology (Mar 13-17)**

Keep minds and bodies busy while school is out. This variety week will keep boys and girls thoroughly entertained through a mixture of sports – basketball, soccer, football, and more – and arts and sciences, as well as LEGO® engineering. The busy week also allows kids swimming at the Fercho YMCA location and climbing to new heights at the Schlossman YMCA Climbing Wall! Everyday is packed with lots of learning and exercise, giving kids a fully-loaded spring break experience!

### **Game-ology (Mar 20-31)**

Your challenge should you choose to accept it: *play 39 new games in 2 weeks*. Brain games, movement games, board games, team games, and solo games...just no video games allowed! Plus, invent a new game to sell to toy manufactures for kids to play over the upcoming summer vacation. Get your game on!

### **Brain-ology (Apr 3-14)**

Does your brain get bigger when you learn new things? Does your brain change color when you learn new things? Brainology shows students that they are in control of their brain and its development. Students discover how the brain works and how it gets stronger and smarter through effort and learning, boosting their confidence in their potential, desire to learn, and willingness to work hard.

### **Sweet-ology (Apr 17-21)**

Bring your imagination and a sweet tooth as you explore the chemistry of candy. Blow it up, melt it into bubbling puddles, and find secret ingredients. Some may think pieces of candy are merely tasty treats, but as you'll learn afterschool, there is a sweet science behind candy making.

### **Superhero-ology (Apr 24-May 5)**

Bulk up as we explore the physics behind the powers of your favorite super hero. You'll investigate some of the exciting science that superheroes use daily. Discover the science of cold as you explore Mr. Freeze™. How does Aquaman™ breathe underwater? How far can you make Superman™ fly? You'll learn the answers to these questions along with discovering your own unique superhero powers.

### **Water-ology (May 8-19)**

What do you know about H<sub>2</sub>O? Jump right in and prepare to explore all things water. In addition to fun water games, students will explore the properties of liquids. They observe how food coloring moves through different liquids, then create secret salad dressing recipes. *Note: Please bring an extra shirt as children may get wet.*

### **Grossology (May 22-26/end of school)**

As a beginning grossologist, you'll explore why your body produces mushy, oozy, crusty, grossness. Take a "Tour du Nose" to explore 10 nasal features, including how your snot acts as an air filter, a smell sensor and a mucus producer. Design and play your own pinball game "Gas Attack" by scoring off bumpers dressed up as food items that cause gas. Mimic the build up of acid indigestion by causing the "Burp Machine" to release a giant belch.