



What is COSAM Outreach?

“COSAM” is an acronym for the College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University. To promote careers in science and mathematics among the K-12 students of today, COSAM has designed an innovative outreach department that offers special activities, workshops, and programs throughout the year for the general public and K-12 students and teachers. These activities are designed to provide a continuum of programs for students in various stages of their educational development.

What is *Science Matters*?

Science Matters is a summer enrichment program for students in grades 1 – 8 that takes science education out of the traditional classroom in an effort to spark a child's interest in the world of science and discovery. Sponsored by the Auburn University College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM), **Science Matters** offers youngsters a supercharged, summer experience. The 2021 **Science Matters** program incorporates a hands-on learning approach that has been developed by education experts. The program features activities that are fun, engaging and inspire exploration, imagination and creativity, while building skills such as self-esteem and teamwork. During this action-packed academy, kids can design and build, learn computer programming skills, enhance their science vocabulary, design amazing critters, and more!

Who should attend?

Does your child like exploring the outdoors? Is he creative or always taking things apart? Does she love solving problems? Do your kids excel at math or science? If you found yourself answering yes to any of these questions or you have a rising first through eighth grade child who shows high interest or aptitude in science, math, or technology-related subjects, you should definitely send your child to **Science Matters** at Auburn University! They'll have a blast, and you'll feel great about positively contributing to your child's education during summer break.

When will registration open?

Online Registration will open on Wednesday, February 24th at www.auburn.edu/cosam/sciencematters beginning at 6:15pm CST with a specified time for each grade level.

- 1st/2nd Registration Opens at 6:15 pm
- 3rd/4th Registration Opens at 6:30 pm
- 5th-8th Registration Opens at 6:45 pm

When is *Science Matters*?

Science Matters will be offered during six weeks throughout the summer. Each week features a different theme. Your child can delight in as many weeks as they like! Below is a list of the weeks when the program is in session:

Dates	Rising Grade Level			
	1st/2nd	3rd/4th	5th/6th	7th/8th
June 7-June 11	Space Exploration	Chemistry Magic	Natural Disasters	Innovative S-TEAM Challenges
June 14-June 18	Body Systems	Natural Disasters	Engineering Through the Ages	Curious Curators
June 21-June 25	Coding for Kids	Coding for Kids	Curious Curators	No Offering
June 28-July 2	Under the Sea	Colors of Light	Curves Ahead	No Offering
July 12-July 16	Weather Wonders	Bug Buddies	Pollution Solutions	
July 19- July 23	Sense & Sensibility	Energy Transfers	Amazing Anatomy	No Offering
July 26- July 30	Storybook STEM	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	NASA: ISS and MARS exploration	No Offering

* June 14-18, this 7th- 8th grade course, *Curious Curators*, will be hosted by the AU Museum of Natural History in their building (behind MW Smith on the corner of Mell St. and Samford Ave). The daily schedule will vary significantly from the other courses as it will include field trips and more intensive learning/activities. Pick-up and drop-off times/locations will be the same as those students in other grades, but they will then walk to the AU Natural History Museum for their course.

*June 21-25, this, 5th – 6th grade course, *Curious Curators*, will be hosted by the AU Museum of Natural History in their building (behind MW Smith on the corner of Mell St. and Samford Ave). The daily schedule will vary significantly from the other courses as both weeks will include field trips and more intensive learning/activities. Pick-up and drop-off times/locations will be the same as those students in younger grades, but they will then walk to the AU Natural History Museum for their course.

How does *Science Matters* work?

Science Matters programs are five-day experiences for students who are upcoming 1st - 8th graders. Each week focuses on a particular scientific theme. Students will participate in a wide-range of activities around the theme including performing real experiments, taking local field trips, technology and art projects, and hands-on, make-n'-take activities.

Daily Schedule*

7:45am – 8:05am	Drop-off students (Roosevelt Concourse Transit Loop – except first day)
8:00am – 8:30am	Thematic Activity (Cross-Curricular Activities)
8:30am – 11:30am	Science Instruction
11:45am – 1:00pm	Lunch and Outdoor Play
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Science Instruction
3:35pm	Child Pick-up

My child is a rising 3rd grader. Will he/she be in a class with a rising 6th grader?

Children will be divided into four groups based upon age. All rising 1st and 2nd graders will be grouped together, 3rd and 4th graders will be grouped together, 5th and 6th graders will be together, and all 7th and 8th graders will be together (except for “Pollution Solutions” which combines 5th-8th graders). Groups will not be engaging in material related to the same topic, though they may interact during lunch time, snack breaks, and outdoor play time.

My child is an advanced rising second grader who would prefer the course offered for 3rd/4th graders. May my child be grouped with older students?

This program has been created around a set of educational and social expectations that go beyond what a child would learn in the average classroom. To ensure the integrity of our summer programs we respect other participants by not placing younger children in their classroom.

Who will be supervising my child?

All **Science Matters** instructors, counselors, and staff have undergone a rigorous application and screening process following Auburn University camp personnel policies. All personnel have extensive experience working with K-12 children and have undergone a Federal background check.

What makes this program different than other science programs?

At **Science Matters**, children are taught by university science outreach staff and exceptional school teachers with significant experience relating to kids. We offer students the opportunity to explore science in a great environment (AU’s main campus). Furthermore, class sizes are kept small enough to receive personal attention from the instructors (a maximum of 15-20 students/class). The staff to student ratio is approximately 1:10. **Science Matters** allows kids the opportunity to explore science in their own unique way yet still maintain a structured environment. Students will engage in the theme of the week through technology, art, communication skills, literature, problem solving, and hands-on science activities and experimentation.

How will sending my child to Science Matters help him/her in the future?

Much research supports the idea that students with wide and varied background experiences perform better in school and ultimately in life. **Science Matters** is a way for your child to experience science in a hands-on, enjoyable way that appeals to elementary and middle school kids.

Reading and math are often the primary focus of elementary school education. Science allows kids to fine-tune their problem-solving skills, technological understanding, and ability to communicate all while tackling relevant, conceptually challenging information. Elementary students today are being taught skills for jobs that do not yet exist. Many of these jobs will be in science or technology driven fields.

You will not find many NBA stars that started learning how to play basketball in high school or college. No, most of them have been playing since they were tots. Why should science be any different? Don't leave it to chance; let **Science Matters** be one of the ways you help your child succeed. The program is specifically designed to spur children's imaginations, encourage exploration, and highlight the wonderment of science in an engaging way your child is sure to love.

This sounds like a great program. How much does it cost?

We have worked hard to maintain the integrity of the program yet still offer it at an affordable price. The price is a flat rate of \$250 per week for each child with a non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00 per participant.

Payment Options:

A minimum deposit of \$265 (one week's tuition + service fee) for each child attending should be paid at the time of registration. Payment in full is due by May 7, 2021. If payment is not received in full by this date, sessions will be forfeited to the next person on the waitlist.

Parents who are registering for multiple weeks may consider the following payment option:

Installment Option: Those families paying for **two or more weeks** may choose to make multiple payments.

- 1.) Parents may make as many payments as needed.
- 2.) All tuition must be paid in full prior to May 7, 2021 for all registered programs.
- 3.) Registrants will not be billed; however, email reminders will be sent to all registered parents about deadlines.

Are scholarships available?

There are a limited number of scholarships available for children from underrepresented populations (Hispanic and African-American) who can demonstrate financial need. Please contact our office for more details. In addition, you may consider contacting your community civics organizations to see if they will sponsor your child.

Please note that participation in the program qualifies as 'child care service'. Talk to your tax agent about receiving a tax break for childcare services. Auburn University employees on the Flexible Spending tax-exempt program may be able to use their Flex account to pay their child's tuition. We will be happy to fill out any tax-related paperwork that you provide.

What is included in the program fees?

- All materials and supplies
- Top rated instructors and counselors
- Any exploratory activities (local trip, on-campus activity, and/or demo. shows on-site, faculty visits, etc.)
- All snacks (morning and afternoon snack breaks are provided)
- Special **Science Matters** Academy T-shirt
- **Science Matters** backpack

What happens if I register for a class that is already full?

We offer a waiting list for applicants interested in attending a class that is already full. You will be informed if your child is placed on the waitlist. If a spot becomes available, you will receive an email notifying you of an opening. You have 48 hours to confirm the spot before forfeiting the available seat to the next person on the waitlist.

Do you have residential options available?

We do not have any residential options available.

What is your refund policy?

- **Non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00.**
- **Full Session(s) Refund** – If cancellation is made by May 7, 2021.
- **50% Refund** – If cancellation is made after May 7, 2021 and at least 2 weeks prior to camp session start date.
- **NO Refund** – If there is a no show or cancellation is made within two weeks prior to the camp session start date.

I still have questions! Contact Dr. Veronica Morin at 334-844-5769 or 334-728-7618, vlm0015@auburn.edu.