

# Science matters

**Summer Academy for Elementary Students**

## What is COSAM Outreach and SCORE?

“COSAM” is an acronym for the College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University. COSAM Outreach is an innovative outreach department that offers special activities, workshops and programs throughout the year to the 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.

“SCORE” is an acronym for the Southeastern Center of Robotics Education at Auburn University. We provide resources for K-12 robotics education throughout Alabama. SCORE offers activities focused on coding and robotics, teacher professional development, and programs throughout the year for the public and K-12 students and teachers.

## What are Science Matters Summer Camps?

**Science Matters** is a summer enrichment program for students in grades 1 – 9 that takes science education out of the traditional classroom to spark a child's interest in the world of science and discovery. **Science Matters** offers youngsters a supercharged, summer experience. The 2026 **Science Matters** program incorporates a hands-on learning approach 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, enhance their science vocabulary, design amazing critters and more!

We are proud to announce that this summer **SCORE Summer Camps** are part of Science Matters! SCORE Summer Camps are STEM summer enrichment programs for varying age groups. The program allows participants to explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math through multiple robotics platforms, 3D printers, Raspberry Pi's and more! KKs can design and build robots, create their own 3D model, and develop life-long skills.

## Who should attend?

Does your child like exploring outdoors? Is he creative or always taking things apart? Does she love solving problems? Does your child like working with robots? Are they always trying to figure out how they program computers or video games? Do your kids excel at math or science? If you find yourself answering yes to any of these questions or have a rising first through seventh grade child who shows high interest or aptitude in science, math, or technology-related subjects, **Science Matters** is the place for them! 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 Tuesday, February 17th beginning at the specified time for each grade level.

- Rising 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> registration opens at 9 a.m.
- Rising 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> registration opens at 9:15 a.m.
- Rising 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

## When are Science Matters camps offered?

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

Dates	Camp Theme	Grade
June 1-5	SCORE Robotics: VEXGO Mars Mission	3/4
June 1-5	SCORE Camp: Beginning 3D Printing	5/6
June 1-5	Curious Curators**	5/6/7
June 8-12	Weather Wizards	1/2
June 8-12	SCORE Robotics: Let's Go with VexGo!	3/4
June 8-12	Sky Explorers: The Science of Weather	3/4
June 8-12	Curious Curators**	4/5
June 8-12	Weather Wonders	5/6
June 15 - 19*	Wild About STEM: Animals Science Camp	1/2
June 15 - 19*	Amazing Animal Explorers	3/4
June 15 - 19*	Into the Wild	5/6
June 15 - 19*	SCORE Robotics - Design Has No Limits: 2026-2027 VEX IQ Competition Camp	7/8/9
June 22 - 26	Biology Buddies: Exploring Living Things STEM Camp	1/2
June 22 - 26	SCORE Robotics: Wild about Coding	1/2
June 22 - 26	Bugs & Blossoms: Junior Entomologists & Botanists	3/4
June 22 - 26	SCORE Robotics Design Has No Limits: 2026-2027 VEX IQ Competition Camp	5/6
July 6 - 10	Storybook STEM	1/2/3/4
July 13- 17	Anatomy Adventures: Inside the Human Body STEM Camp	1/2
July 13- 17	Body Builders: Junior Human Biologists	3/4
July 13- 17	Medical Microbiology	5/6

\*Camp will be held on the Juneteenth holiday

\*\*5th graders are only allowed to sign up for one Curators Camp

**\*\* We will offer Curious Curator sessions for rising 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Curious Curator sessions 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). Pickup will also be at this location. The daily schedule will vary significantly from the other courses as it will include field trips and more intensive learning/activities. 5<sup>th</sup> graders can only sign up for one Curious Curators camp.**

## What is the daily schedule?

7:45am – 8:00am	Drop-off students (Location TBD)
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
3:45pm– 4:00pm	Child Pick-up (location TBD)

**My child is an advanced rising second grader who would prefer the course offered for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> 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 please place your child in camp designated to their grade.

## 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 staff and/or exceptional schoolteachers 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. The staff to student ratio is approximately 1:8. **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.

## 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 \$250 per week for each child for our Science Matters Camps, \$300/week/child for our Curious Curators camps and \$335/week for our SCORE Robotics camps (these camps have additional field trips and resources from our typical Science Matters camps). There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00 per participant.

### Payment Options:

A minimum deposit of one week's tuition + service fee for each child attending should be paid at the time of registration. Payment in full is due by April 20, 2026. 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 April 20, 2026, for all registered sessions.
- 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 for the Curious Curators camps only. 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 'childcare 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
- Experienced instructors and counselors
- Exploratory activities

- Morning and afternoon snacks
- **Science Matters** T-shirt

### 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. 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.

### What is the refund policy?

- **Non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00.**
- **Full Session(s) Refund** – If cancellation is made by April 20, 2026.
- **50% Refund** – If cancellation is made after April 20, 2026 and at least 4 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.

Science Matters Refund Policy			
Session Date	Due date for 100% refund	Due date for 50% refund	No refund Available
June 1-5	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, May 4, 2026	Tuesday, May 5, 2026
June 8-12	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, May 13, 2026	Tuesday, May 14, 2026
June 15 - 19*	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, May 20, 2026	Tuesday, May 21, 2026
June 22 - 26	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, May 27, 2026	Tuesday, May 28, 2026
July 6 - 10	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, June 8, 2026	Tuesday, June 9, 2026
July 13- 17	Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, June 15, 2026	Tuesday, June 16, 2026
\$15 Non-refundable Registration Fee			
All balances must be paid by April 20, 2026, or any unpaid sessions will be forfeited to the next registrant on the waitlist. Payments are applied to sessions in chronological order.			

\*Science Matters camp **will be held** on the Juneteenth holiday.

**Still have questions?** Contact Kristen Jackson at [jacksks@auburn.edu](mailto:jacksks@auburn.edu)