

Educational camps promote learning and laughing

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If happens every summer. The textbooks get put away and the kids turn their attention to having fun.

Parents on the other hand want to ensure their children will be ready for the next school year and won't lose what they've learned.

If you and your child can't agree on a course of action, an academic enrichment camp could be the best of both worlds. Many of the camps mix learning and fun in unique ways.

The Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa offers a variety of day and travel camps and residen-

tial academies for ages 2-17 in its summer science camp programs.

"We've been doing this for 30 years," says Cathy Crowder, media relations specialist. "Any area your child is interested in you can find at MOSI."

Certified teachers and science and technology educators lead the project-based classes. Costs vary, but a variety of budgets are accommodated, Crowder says.

The camps begin June 14 and subjects include dinosaurs, sharks, technology, rocket science and game design. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended care available.

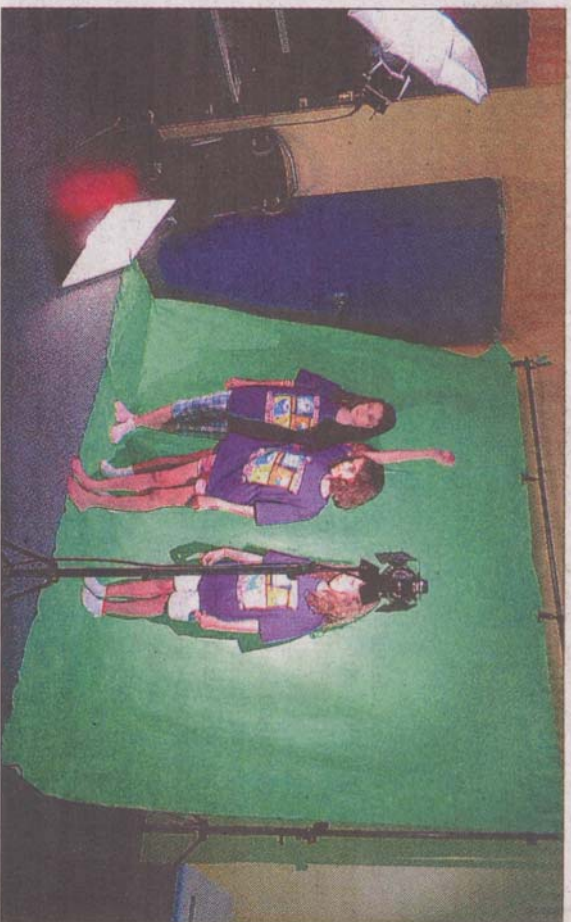
There also are half-day camps with morning and afternoon sessions. There are several ways

to register. You can visit www.campfun.org; mail a registration form to MOSI at 4801 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa 33617; drop it off at the museum; or fax in the registration form to (813) 987-6060.

The Florida Advanced Technological Education Center (FLATE) has expanded its summer robotics program to five week-long camps.

The STEM-focused program (science, technology, engineering and math) for middle school students aims to help participants build not only technical skills but leadership ones, as well.

"The fun part of the whole program is watching the kids learning and getting into logical problem solving," says David



MOSI photos

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Gula, outreach coordinator for FLATE. "Then they realize they're using math, science, physics to make their projects work."

Gula says the program is designed to pique campers' interest in science and technology,

which has become really important today as everything becomes more automated.

"It keeps their minds going in the right directions," he says, adding that many of the students end up becoming involved

in robotics clubs in school because of their summer experience. And robotics isn't just for the boys. In fact, there will be an all-girls class this year.

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The first three camps are introductory. Camp one is June 21-25; camp two is June 28-July 2; and camp three from July 12-16 is for girls only.

Participants will learn about robotics technology as well as program and reconfigure Lego Mindstorms Robots.

The final two sessions, July 19-23 and July 26-30, take students beyond the introductory sessions and require previous attendance at a FLATE robot camp.

The camps are \$50 and will be held at the Brandon campus of Hillsborough Community College, 10414 E. Columbus Drive. Visit www.fl-ate.org to register or call (813) 259-6581 to learn about other camps being held around the Tampa Bay area.

Denise Diorio of Academic Aftercare in South Tampa offers a year-round program that aims to help children reach their aca-

"I love this program and students love it, too," Diorio says. "It's wonderful to see the children grow academically."

The summer session is eight weeks and parents can sign their child up for one, two or all of them. It starts June 14.

Half-day programs, from 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m., will focus on academics or fine arts and are \$95 a week. The full-day program from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. is \$185 a week and will focus on both academics and fine arts. Parents who register their child by April 30 will receive a discount.

Parents also can customize their child's day. "If they want the child to focus on a particular subject, we're happy to do it," Diorio says.

The program boasts all adult supervision, Florida-certified teachers, individual attention and a curriculum that follows the state's Sunshine standards. Centers include math, reading, Spanish, study skills, science, art, writing and more.

620 S. MacDill Ave., Suite C. To register, call (813) 943-6530 or visit www.academicaftercare.com.

The Center Academy in Lutz offers summer classes from 9 a.m. to noon for grades 4-12.

"We specialize in individualized help in a small environment," says Lucia Robles of the Lutz program.

For students in grades 4-8, the center provides extra reading, writing and math help. High schoolers can earn a credit hour, depending on the subject.

The academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Independent Private Schools Association.

The academy works with students of all levels but also specializes in working with children with ADHD, dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

A great thing about the summer program is that it's in the morning, so students could participate in other activities in the afternoon.

A five-week session



Certified teachers and science and technology educators lead the project-based classes at MOSI.

formation about the Lutz 9442. The center also has Park and Riverview. For academy at 1520 Land O' locations in Bradenton, details, visit www.centeratlakesblvd.com. Palm Harbor, Pinellas [cademy.com](http://www.cademy.com).

WHY CHOOSE YMCA SUMMER CAMPS?