

Sciencenter Connection: Explore science with hands-on activities



TERESA BELL

The Sciencenter, in collaboration with local organizations, is offering a number of opportunities this summer for you to become a scientist — no experience necessary!

At 2 p.m. Saturday, you can test the waters of citizen science, literally, as you learn about the organisms that call our neighboring Cascadilla Creek home. The Community Science Institute's certified water testing lab works with volunteer citizen scientists to collect scientifically credible data for use in protecting the environment and managing water resources sustainably.

Our summer camp Counselors-In-Training will continue the citizen science project throughout the summer by leading Sciencenter guests through the identification of these insects with the help of CSI, and also chemistry testing with the help of the Finger Lakes Institute. You can participate at 2:30 p.m. June 26 and 28. Check our online calendar for additional dates throughout the summer.

Another way to “be the scientist” includes using research to form an educated opinion. The Sciencenter has collaborated with the Civic Ensemble to offer a series of special family programs, “To Frack or Not to Frack?” Join us at 2 p.m. June 23 to learn about gas drilling and participate in a fun, interactive and family-friendly theater program designed to create conversation around a controversial issue. The Civic Ensemble will illustrate through theater some kid-friendly viewpoints on both sides of the gas drilling debate, to help kids make their own informed decision. Plus, get a sneak peak of the Sciencenter's new exhibition, “Tapping the Marcellus” to debut later this summer. This program is part of a series made possible by a grant from the Tompkins County Tourism Program.

Be an engineer on Sundays throughout the summer. Stop at the Sciencenter Reinvention Station between 1 and 2:30 pm for “Moto-Inventions.” You'll tinker with recycled materials and electricity to invent your own moving contraptions to take home.

All of these opportunities to be a scientist are included with Sciencenter admission. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for children 3 – 17 years, and free to members and children under 3.

For the complete monthly line-up of events and activities, visit www.sciencenter.org, where you can also sign up for our monthly eNews. Like us on Facebook for even more Sciencenter news.

Teresa Bell is the Public and Media Relations Manager at the Sciencenter.

Sciencenter Connection appears the second Thursday of the month in Ticket.

Online: <http://www.ithacajournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013306120022>