

New 2021 COVID Summer Opportunities

- 1: Many options at ISU: [Iowa State Summer Programs Virtual Design Program](#)
- 2: [NewBo Summer Camps](#) 2nd-8th grade: Virtual coding classes for all ages, and one especially for girls!
- 3: Junior High - [Washington University in St. Louis Summer Challenge](#) * VIRTUAL
- 4: [4-H Youth conference](#) for students who have finished 8th-12th Grade: "Start your future here" camp with animal science round-up, entertainment, recreation, camera corps, and community service. June 29-July 1

Older List Below (Some may not happen this year because of COVID)

Reading:

- **Reading Lists for all ages:** <https://novelconversations.weebly.com/lists.html>
 - Each book has a short summary followed by RL: Reading Level IL: Interest Level
- **Book Recommendations** sorted by age, genre, or topic (Plus so much more!!)
 - <https://www.amightygirl.com/books>
- A great resource to check if a book is appropriate for your student:
<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/reviews>
- **Des Moines Playhouse:** <https://www.dmpplayhouse.com/learn-explore/classes>

Math:

- Code Ninja Camps:
<https://www.codeninjas.com/camps/ia-des-moines-clive>
- Bricks 4 Kidz is another one for your list. I just looked and their summer dates aren't available yet, but here's the site: my.bricks4kidz.com
 - Just click on the "Get Started" link and enter zip code for local classes.
 - <https://my.bricks4kidz.com/index.php?action=location&location=100&view=>
- **Free Printable Logic Puzzles** to work on at home: <https://krazydad.com/>

Science:

- **Wildlife** - <https://recserv.uiowa.edu/WildlifeCampsStateParks>
- **FilmScene Animation & Set Design Summer Camp** (Virtual Options!) Grades 3-8:
<https://icfilmscene.org/series/education/>
- **Astronaut Camp:** [Cosmo Space Camp](#): "Astronaut Camp" in Hutchinson, KS, but worth the drive!
- **Camp Invention:** Local educators will facilitate program modules and enthusiastic high school and college students will serve as Leadership Interns ensuring that one

staff member is in place for every eight children. Availability is limited, so visit www.campinvention.org or call 800-968-4332 to learn more and secure your child's spot today! Use promo code Camps25 to save \$25 (expires 3/23) and Camps15 to save \$15 (expires 5/4).

- Camp Invention, Home Page: <https://www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention>
- Camp Invention, Locations (Several in the metro area):
https://inventnow-web.ungerboeck.com/programsearch/program_map.aspx
- **STEM Camps in Des Moines:**
<http://dsm4kids.com/8-stem-summer-camps-and-classes-4-kids-in-des-moines/>
- **Volunteer Opportunity at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge:**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith/what_we_do/get_involved.html
- **Science Center -**
 - **Camps-** <https://www.sciowa.org/education/camps/camp-directory/>
 - **Calendar of Events in the Summer:**
<https://www.sciowa.org/programs-and-events/event-calendar/>
- **Blank Park Zoo Safari Camps:**
<https://www.blankparkzoo.com/education/safari-camps/summer-safari-camp/>

West Des Moines Summer Enrichment Program:

<https://www.wdmcs.org/academics/talented-and-gifted/summer-enrichment-adventures-sea/>

Summer Adventures in Learning, Sail, West Des Moines

<http://commed.wdmcs.org/programs/youth/summer-of-learning/summer-adventures-in-learning-sail/>

<http://commed.wdmcs.org/programs/youth/summer-of-learning/art-adventures/>

Iowa State Opportunities (Many age ranges and topics!)

Adventures is a program designed specifically to challenge the minds of younger students who are exhibiting academic promise at a very early age. This program will give younger students the opportunity to explore the worlds of science, math, art, literature, readings, and engineering in the company of qualified instructors and fellow gifted students. Admissions Early Outreach strives to offer challenging academic experiences that incorporate hands-on experimentation and provides students with experiences not found in the traditional classroom.

This is a one-week, non-residential program for students entering grades 3-6. Students have the opportunity to choose one morning and one afternoon class in the same week or participate in just a morning or afternoon class. If students participate in two classes during the same week, they will bring their own lunch and eat with our Camp Leader staff and other Adventure students while enjoying the beautiful Iowa State campus.

- Adventure Course Descriptions: <http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/adventures/courses.php>
- Adventures Program Information:
http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/adventures/program_info.php
- Adventure Program Fees: http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/adventures/program_info.php

Discoveries is a program designed with our middle school learners in mind. Students can connect with other gifted learners while participating in hands-on, engaging course activities centered around their favorite subjects. Course topics range from computer coding, electrical engineering, neuroscience, biology and more. Admissions Early Outreach strives to offer challenging academics with a fun and supportive social environment.

Students in grades 7-8 will take a deep dive into a course topic for four full days, while enjoying lunch every day in one of our campus dining centers with our summer staff. Students may pack a snack and/or drink to have during class time break. Family members will be invited to an open house during the afternoon of the final day.

- Discoveries Application & Eligibility Requirements: http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/discoveries/program_info.php
- Program Fees: http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/discoveries/program_fees.php
- Course Descriptions: <http://www.opptag.iastate.edu/discoveries/courses.php>

University of Iowa

The Belin-Blank Center specializes in academically talented kids. If you have 2nd – 6th-grade students who show a deep curiosity when a topic sparks their interest, a love of learning, or a particular talent in an area, they will feel right at home in our Blast program! Blast is a summer program designed specifically for bright students who want to take a deep dive into a topic - all while having fun with other kids who share their level of interest and ability.

Students get to choose one class to focus on all day, for a full week – and these aren't regular classes! With options like Harry Potter, STEAM, Mixed Media Art, Virtual Reality, Programming (and more!), there's sure to be something for your inquisitive kids. Class sizes are small, and they take place on the University of Iowa campus, giving students access to valuable university-level resources and experts.

We understand that many bright students may also have a disability or impairment that can present behavioral, emotional, social, or learning challenges. Our experts in twice-exceptionality offer specialized social and academic support for these students.

Payment plans and financial aid are available. Participation in your school's talented and gifted program is not required. If you think Blast sounds like a good fit for any of your students, be sure to recommend that they check it out at www.belinblank.org/summer or contact Ashlee Van Fleet at summer@belinblank.org!