

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST



Issue 5 Content

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Hello Challenger friends!

As we kick off this month at the Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West, our team is thrilled about the incredible opportunities ahead! Summer may seem far away, but we're already gearing up for an exciting camp season that will be filled with exploration, innovation, and out-of-this-world experiences. Be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming registration details—spaces are limited, and you won't want to miss it!

In the meantime, we're preparing to welcome numerous school districts for our immersive missions. We love seeing students engage in critical thinking, teamwork, and STEM problem-solving, and we can't wait to share these unforgettable experiences with even more learners.

We're also excited to announce that we've just received the mission information for the all-new Earth Odyssey mission! This cutting-edge addition to our mission roster will deepen our exploration of Earth science and environmental challenges. Stay tuned as we finalize details and prepare to launch this new adventure later this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our programs. Together, we're inspiring the next generation of explorers and innovators. Here's to a stellar month ahead!

Coordinator of Gifted STEM and
Personalized Learning



Challenger[®]
LEARNING
CENTER

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SUMMER CAMP!

June 2-6: Astro Camp

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

"Astro Explorers: Little Hands, Big Dreams!"

Embark on an interstellar journey designed for our youngest space enthusiasts! This camp sparks curiosity with hands-on, age-appropriate STEAM activities inspired by NASA missions. Little explorers will build, create, and imagine their way through the wonders of space, fostering creativity and excitement for science and discovery.

3rd – 4th Grade

"Mission: Adventure Beyond Earth!"

Take a giant leap into the exciting world of space science! This camp invites young adventurers to dive into NASA-inspired STEAM challenges, explore the solar system, and engage in interactive activities that ignite curiosity about space exploration and the technologies of tomorrow.

June 9-13: Robotics and Coding

5th – 6th Grade

"Rescue Robotics: A Mission to Save Lives!"

Gear up for a hands-on adventure where innovation meets real-world problem-solving! In this NASA-inspired camp, participants will take on the role of engineers designing and programming robotic devices to tackle natural disaster scenarios. Using programmable robots, students will navigate challenging mazes, create custom tools, and simulate rescue missions. This camp fosters creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking as campers explore how cutting-edge technology aids first responders. Of course, we will have some fun with battle bots too!

7th – 8th Grade

"Robot Olympics: Engineering for Space Exploration!"

Join the Robot Olympics and take your skills to the next level as we connect robotics to the spirit of exploration at the Challenger Learning Center! In this camp, 7th and 8th graders will design, build, and code VEX IQ robots to compete in Olympic-style events, all inspired by the teamwork and problem-solving required for real space missions. From robot soccer to precision challenges, campers will develop engineering and programming skills while exploring how robotics plays a crucial role in space exploration. Get ready to compete, create, and innovate like a future astronaut!



SUMMER CAMP!

June 23-27: Astro Camp

2nd – 4th Grade

"Mission: Adventure Beyond Earth!"

Take a giant leap into the exciting world of space science! This camp invites young adventurers to dive into NASA-inspired STEAM challenges, explore the solar system, and engage in interactive activities that ignite curiosity about space exploration and the technologies of tomorrow.

5th – 6th Grade

"Space Innovators: Charting the Future!"

Step into the role of a NASA engineer or scientist as you tackle exciting space exploration challenges! This camp for 5th and 6th graders combines hands-on experiments, teamwork, and problem-solving to explore what it takes to live and work in space. Participants will engage with real-world NASA mission concepts, inspiring innovation and a passion for STEM.

Registration

Scan or click the QR Code to register!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPACE?



Credit: NASA/Frank Michaux

To the Moon! NASA Sends Science, Tech to Moon on Firefly, SpaceX Flight

NASA's Artemis campaign advanced with the launch of Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1, carrying 10 science and tech payloads to the Moon aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. Targeting a March 2 landing, the mission will test lunar drilling, regolith sampling, radiation-tolerant computing, and dust mitigation technologies. These efforts aim to expand knowledge of the Moon, support sustainable exploration, and prepare for human missions to Mars. The payloads also address key lunar and Earth science questions.

Planet Parade!

Look Up For January's 'Parade Of Planets'

By Jan Wesner Childs



A rare planetary alignment featuring Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Neptune, and Uranus is gracing the January night sky. Visible about 90 minutes after sunset, the best views are in dark, clear spots. Venus and Saturn will appear close and slowly drift apart, showcasing changes nightly. Winter's clear skies enhance viewing, though stargazers should dress warmly. The alignment continues into February, offering a chance to observe planets together before they disperse.

SCHEDULE WITH US!

Virtual or In-Person



In-Person Mission: What to Expect

- Approximate program time: 2.5 hours
- Time spent in both Mission Control and the space craft during the fully immersive simulated mission
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned

Learn more about our Simulated Missions [HERE!](#)

[CLICK HERE to schedule a mission or request information!](#)

Virtual Mission: What to Expect

- Approximate program time: 1 hour
- Delivered in real-time by Challenger Learning Center Flight Directors
- Closed captioning available
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned

Learn more about Virtual Missions [HERE!](#)

SCIENCE SNAPSHOT:

Surprisingly STEM: Space Food Scientist

K-4

NASA space food scientist Xulei Wu dishes on what considerations go into preparing food for the astronauts on the International Space Station. Learn how Wu trains astronauts for dining in space and what solutions she and the other food scientists have cooked up to meet the challenges of eating in a microgravity environment. Extend with the [Food for Spaceflight Activity!](#)



Surprisingly STEM: Exploration Geologist

5-8

Here at NASA, we don't take geology for granite. Enjoy this rock-solid episode of Surprisingly STEM and learn how exploration geologist Angela Garcia is training NASA astronauts to explore for the crater good of humanity. Extend the video with some [Candy Bar Geology!](#)



Air Traffic Management

9-12

In this activity, students will use a programming language to create an interactive simulation of a drone navigating through a crowded airspace while delivering passengers or products to their destination. The simulation engages students in computational thinking, problem solving, and real-world application of mathematics

