See what Sciencenter in Ithaca has planned for families this summer

Amy Gaulke  Published 11:00 a.m. ET June 20, 2018

*Science Playground, mini-golf, and “Run! Jump! Fly! Adventures in Action” exhibit among highlights*

School is almost out, and it's time to plan your summer of fun!

The Sciencenter is filled with two floors of thrilling science experiences, including two huge science-themed playgrounds and a mini-golf course, so get ready to jump, climb, splash, think and build your way through hands-on, full-body science fun.

**Take science outdoors**

Enjoy learning under the sun at the Science Playground. Explore dozens of exhibits where you can make music, investigate bubbles and water, experiment with physics, and play your way through compelling science concepts.

Bobble along the Kevlar suspension bridge or explore geometry while you hang out on our 14-foot high geometric rope structure. This multilevel Science Playground is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

And for your littlest scientists, the Curiosity Playground is the perfect outdoor discovery space for children under 5 years old. Your little ones can crawl, bounce and slide while strengthening their fine- and gross-motor skills and exploring with their five senses.

Continue your outdoor science exploration with a round of Sciencenter mini-golf. Experiment with sound waves as you putt through a path of alarm bells, activate a wave pendulum and investigate frequency to see if you can successfully putt through the swinging weights, attempt to escape a black hole, and more. Sciencenter mini-golf is $7 for players or $5 for members, with children ages 0 to 3 free with a paid adult. Mini-golf pricing does not include nor require museum admission and is wheelchair accessible with ADA approved clubs.
Discover the ocean

Get a hands-on and up close look at ocean wildlife at our Tidepool Touch Tank in the Brooks Family Foundation Ocean Education Gallery.

Learn how horseshoe crabs flip over in the water, try to spot a burrowing spider crab, see what a channeled whelk’s feet looks like, marvel at the way a sea star has its breakfast and more.

For guests who like to look and not touch, check out life under the ocean with a virtual underwater adventure through our local watershed in the giant Yellow Submarine.

The Tidepool Touch Tank is open in June on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m., and on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. for hands-on exploration. Call ahead for additional summer hours.

More: Love music festivals? Here are summer’s best (/story/life/2018/06/02/summer-music-festivals-new-york-pennsylvania/35607731/)

More: Hear awesome country, Americana, rock and more around upstate New York this summer (/story/entertainment/2018/06/06/summer-concerts-binghamton-ithaca-elmira/35751879/)

Featured summer exhibit

Get ready to become an action-adventure star at our featured summer exhibit “Run! Jump! Fly! Adventures in Action.”

Explore four different adventure scenes in this heart-pumping and muscle-building exhibition. Take part in high intensity activities that help build strength, coordination, balance and endurance. Test your balance while learning how to snowboard and surf. Build strength as you climb through a canyon. Then put your skills to the test at the Action Star Training center by taking part in awesome challenges.

“Run! Jump! Fly! Adventures in Action” was created by Minnesota Children’s Museum.

Special summer programs

Take part in cool, creative hands-on activities led by our middle-school Future Science Leaders from Tuesday through Friday this summer starting June 26. Scientists of all ages can build and launch rockets, design and race cars in an engineering challenge, investigate aquatic life in our neighboring Cascadilla Creek, and more. We’ll offer a new activity every week through Aug. 31.

Enjoy an extra dose of extra cool science every Thursday at our weekly live demonstrations of “The Coolest Science.” Starting on June 28, discover how different items react to the extreme temperatures of liquid nitrogen and dry ice. Watch as Sciencenter educators create icy bubbles, make a hammer out of a banana and produce an indoor cloud right before your eyes.

More: Cayuga Sound Festival expands to two days (/story/entertainment/2018/04/02/cayuga-sound-fest-feature-x-ambassadors-matt-and-kim-sofit-tukker-young-giant/477522002/)

More: Comedies, dramas and musicals at theaters around the region this summer (/story/entertainment/2018/05/22/summer-theater-comedies-dramas-musicals-ithaca-elmira-binghamton/35239205/)

Traveling this summer?

Remember, Sciencenter memberships travel with you!

If you are hitting the open road this summer, be sure to pack your Sciencenter membership card. As a member you receive free admission to over 325 other science museums worldwide through the ASTC Travel Passport Program. Visit sciencenter.org/membership (http://www.sciencenter.org/membership) for a list of participating museums, to become a member or to renew your membership.
To learn more about Sciencenter programs, planning your visit, or purchasing a membership, visit www.sciencenter.org, call 607-272-0600, or stop by our front desk. Sciencenter hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open seven days a week in July and August.

General museum admission is $8 for ages 2 to 64, $7 for seniors ages 65 and up, and free to members and children under 2 years old. The Sciencenter is a proud member of the Discovery Trail.

Gaulke is the public and media relations manager at the Sciencenter.

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