

**Adventure Through Open Minds Science Club for Kids a.k.a. A.T.O.M. Science Club for Kids**

May 20, 2015

Dear A.T.O.M. Science Club for Kids Members, Families, and Community Members,

I'm happy to open registration for A.T.O.M. Science Club for Kids Summer Camps and am looking forward to another fun-filled summer.

Summer camp sessions are an exciting opportunity for existing A.T.O.M. Science Club for Kids members and non-members from the community to learn and grow through exposure to new information. Through hands-on science activities, fun projects, games, and field trips, campers will enjoy a summer of asking and answering scientific questions—with lots of visual and hands-on material to stimulate creative thinking.

The 2015 weekly summer camp sessions are open to kids ages 6 to 11 (entering grades 1 - 6). If your child is not within this age group but wishes to attend, please contact me for special consideration. Each week has a different theme that we will explore in depth. You may sign up your child for one or more weeks.

The attached packet contains all the information you need to understand the summer program content, details, cost, and sign-up procedure (see Table of Contents on the following page). There is a registration form at the end for you to print, fill out, and return.

I hope this information packet addresses all your concerns, but if you have questions please feel free to contact me by e-mail at [atomscienceclub@yahoo.com](mailto:atomscienceclub@yahoo.com) or by phone at 650-271-2035. For additional information about my science clubs that take place throughout the academic year, see my web site at <http://www.atomscienceclub.com>.

I look forward to a wonderful summer of exploring scientific phenomena from tiny atoms to massive black holes, learning about the human brain, and, most importantly, having fun!

Best Regards,

Madame Atom

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## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

During the school year, ATOM Science Club topics begin with *atoms*. For the summer program, I'm excited to take a new approach to studying how our universe is constructed. In the morning, instead of looking at the universe's basic building blocks (atoms) we will look at the universe in its entirety. In the afternoon, kids will learn about rocketry hands on, by building their own rockets.

## FIELD TRIPS

I am always interested in getting the whole family involved in science. Therefore, I plan to offer optional family activities over the summer. These may include visits to the College of San Mateo for planetarium movies, field trips to NASA Ames Research Center, and a "Starbecue" overnight family camping trip with stargazing as the main activity. These optional events will be held on weekends and will be specially designed to be valuable and enjoyed by families of children attending any of the weekly summer camp sessions (see below). Once you enroll in a summer camp session, I will update you as I finalize field trip information and schedules.

**Important information regarding field trips:** *As is always the case, I cannot legally be responsible for your children before, during, or after a field trip. Under the terms of ATOM Science Club's commercial insurance policy, I am unable to provide or coordinate transportation to and from field trip locations. Transportation to and from scheduled field trips is the responsibility of the camper's parents. Any carpooling arrangements will be the responsibility of campers' parents. Parents are free to contact one another during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up should they wish to coordinate shared driving.*

## CUSTOM CAMP SESSIONS

In past years, parents have asked me to customize a camp to the needs and desires of a group of children. Due to the success of this program, I would like to offer this idea to all club members. If your group has a specific interest in either science or math (new this year) or a *combination* of science and math, I would be happy to work with you to develop a fun camp for your group. Please contact me ASAP to discuss how I can accommodate your group.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. What age groups can attend ATOM Science Club Summer Camp?**

ATOM Science Club summer camps are open to children ages 6 to 11 (entering grades 1 to 6). Although groups will be mixed-age, I will be sensitive to wide age disparities and will arrange groups so that very young kids are not in groups with much older kids and vice versa. Therefore, I'd appreciate your sending back your information as soon as possible so I can create the groups as needed. If your child is not within this age group but wishes to attend, please contact me for special consideration.

### **2. Is this camp right for my child?**

There are a few important things to keep in mind about the ATOM Science Club Summer Camp experience. This is not a "stay and play" camp. The kids who thrive here are those who are curious about the world, have a genuine interest in science and/or math, and are able to focus and maintain interest in a topic from an academic perspective. Of course, there will be plenty of time for hands-on projects and outdoor fun as well.

### **3. How do I register?**

To register, please fill out the form at the end of this letter, indicating which session(s) you would like to attend and mail it along with your checks to the address on the form. (See the Payment section.) Before each camp session starts, parents will receive via e-mail a hold harmless agreement and a more detailed registration form. I need to receive completed copies of both of these forms on or before the first day of camp.

### **4. When will I know I'm in?**

Because there is both minimum and maximum enrollment for each session to ensure that camp is fun for the kids, the sooner you register the sooner I can finalize sessions. Please watch your e-mail for updates; I will let you know when particular sessions are full. It's best to sign up as soon as possible to ensure your spot. At this time, I can't guarantee that I will reach the minimum for any particular session. Therefore I will notify you as soon as I reach the minimum and will cash your checks. (See the refund policy.)

### **5. Can a friend who is not currently an ATOM Science Club member sign up?**

Summer camp sessions are open to members of the community. I encourage your child to invite friends who may not be familiar with ATOM Science Club to participate with them. I welcome introducing the club to new members as long as the friends who attend understand the mutual respect and courteous behavior expected of all club members. As a thank-you for introducing someone new through a camp session, I will reduce your tuition (See the Payment section.)

### **6. What about food?**

Each child should bring a full lunch and two or three different snacks per day to camp. Campers are not allowed to share food as other club members may have allergies.

### **7. How can I contact you?**

I always welcome hearing from parents. You can contact me e-mail at [atomsienceclub@yahoo.com](mailto:atomsienceclub@yahoo.com) or by phone at 650-271-2035.

# CAMP LOCATION, HOURS, AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE

## CAMP LOCATION

Camp takes place at the Atom Science Club House, 859 Overlook Court, San Mateo, CA 94403.

## CAMP HOURS

Each session runs Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Extended care may be available based on demand; please see options on registration form. Children must bring lunches and snacks.

## CAMP SESSIONS

### **WEEK 1: June 8-12**

#### The Big Bang and Beyond

*Morning:* What's the tiniest or most fundamental particle in the microcosm? What's the most massive or most wild of all groups of atoms in the macrocosm? How does energy become matter?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

### **WEEK 2: June 15-19**

#### The Never-Ending Story

*Morning:* Learn how the universe began. How did people begin? Will it ever end?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

### **WEEK 3: June 22-26**

#### The Sun: One of the Universe's Ovens

*Morning:* Discover the amazing abilities of the sun and other stars. Then explore why the universe seems to make so many things round in outer space that we see with our eyes and telescopes.

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

## ***NO CAMP THE WEEK OF JULY 4***

### **WEEK 4: July 6-10**

#### Weird Occurrences in Outer Space

*Morning:* Imagine weird occurrences in outer space, like black holes from which nothing can escape (not even light) and supernovas -- next to the big bang, the biggest explosions in our universe -- that in a second fuse together all the atoms on our periodic table.

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

### **WEEK 5: July 13-17**

#### Let the Force Be With You

*Morning:* We will explore the amazing forces that shape, move, accelerate, join together, and tear apart parts of our universe.

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 6:** July 20-24

Is Life in Outer Space Possible?

*Morning:* Explore what people will need to do to live in outer space. What kinds of special equipment will our bodies need to stay healthy and to withstand the challenges away from our comfortable earth?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 7:** July 27-31

Investigate Water

*Morning:* Where there's water, there's life. Must a planet have water to support life in our universe? What else do we assume we need for life? Could there be waterless life with very different needs than here on earth?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 8:** August 3-7

Aliens: The Search for Extra Terrestrials

*Morning:* Are we alone in the universe? How did we get started in this universe? Did we arise from the earth or are we from somewhere else?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 9:** August 10-14

What is Light and How Do Our Eyes Perceive It?

*Morning:* As Einstein said, if you could go as fast as light and you could look around, what would light look like that surrounds you?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 10:** August 17-21

You Are the Center of the Universe

*Morning:* Our universe is expanding and accelerating. You stand in the middle of it. Do you know this is happening all around you?

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

**WEEK 11:** August 24-28

Energy:  $E=MC^2$

*Morning:* If we define matter as what you can hold, then we define energy as what you cannot hold. We will discuss and explore what this means.

*Afternoon:* Build a rocket while learning about rocketry.

# PAYMENT INFORMATION

## BASIC CAMP FEE/DISCOUNTS

Basic camp fee: \$385 per week

### Discount schedule (multiple discounts may be taken)

\$20 early bird discount per week for registering by January 31, 2015

\$20 discount per week for multiple weeks

\$20 discount per week for siblings

\$20 discount per week for ATOMS members who bring a friend (not a current club member) to sign up

## AFTER CARE

Assuming there is enough interest (please note on registration form) I will offer after care from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. each day for an additional \$10/hour per child.

## MATERIALS FEE

To cover the cost of materials, there will be a \$35 materials fee for each camp session.

## REFUND POLICY

Up to 3 months before your first session begins: 100% minus \$50 registration fee

Up to 2 months before your first session begins: 75% minus \$50 registration fee

Up to 1 month before your first session begins: 50% minus \$50 registration fee

1 month or less before your first session begins: No refund except materials fee

## PAYMENT

- Please make checks payable to ATOM Science.
- I would appreciate if you would write separate checks for the camp fee, the materials fee, and after care. I apologize for the inconvenience of writing up to three separate checks, but this will make things easier in the long run.
- In the memo section, please include session number and camper's name.

# ATOM Science Club for Kids Summer Camp Registration Form

(please use a separate form for each child you wish to register)

**Please check the camp week(s) you wish to sign up for:**

<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 1: June 8-12	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 5: July 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 9: Aug 10-14
<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 2: June 15-19	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 6: July 20-24	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 10: Aug 17-21
<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 3: June 22-26	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 7: July 27-31	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 11: Aug 24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 4: July 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/> WEEK 8: Aug 3-7	

**FIELD TRIPS**

My family  is  is not interested in attending weekend family field trips.

**AFTER CARE OPTIONS:**

I am interested in camp sessions, but if I am to participate I must have care for my child:  
 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. (add. cost of \$10/hour)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camper's Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Parents' Phone  
 Land # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENTS ENCLOSED**

*Make checks payable to ATOM Science and make out separate checks for camp fee, materials, and after care)*

**1) CAMP FEE**

Cost per week of camp	_____ <b>\$385</b> _____
Discounts applied per week (check below)	- _____
Number of weeks	x _____
<b>TOTAL Camp Fees</b>	= _____

Discount schedule (may take multiple discounts)

\$20 early bird discount per week for registering by January 31, 2015  
 \$20 discount per week for multiple weeks  
 \$20 discount per week for siblings  
 \$20 discount per week for members who bring a friend (not current club member) to sign up

**2) MATERIALS FEE**

Per week of camp	_____ <b>\$35</b> _____
Number of weeks	x _____
<b>TOTAL Materials Fees</b>	= _____

**3) AFTER CARE FEE**

Cost per week of camp (hours/week *\$10)	_____
Number of weeks	x _____
<b>TOTAL After Care Fees</b>	= _____

Mail your payment and registration to: Madame Atom, 859 Overlook Court, San Mateo, CA 94403