



2016 Discovery Class Descriptions

Week 1: August 1-5

Morning Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Becoming Human:** Do you like to MONKEY AROUND? Want a chance to learn about what makes us uniquely human? This one-week class will start with a foundation in natural selection and the process of evolution. From there we will learn what makes primates different from other mammals, through the human lineage tree, to end with modern humans and what makes us different from all other species. This fun, hands-on class will use videos, games, and activities to understand the important processes of evolution.
- **Bring the Noise!** Music can change the world! This program will focus on the art of writing and performing original music. You will write songs, be in a band, and lay down the musical foundation before setting foot in the studio. Use rock instrumentation (vocals/electric guitar/keyboards/bass/drums) to develop your tracks while learning the history of rock music, including its influences and derivatives. This class culminates with a final concert at the end of the week.

Afternoon Classes: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Calling All Future Dietitians:** Have you ever thought about becoming a dietitian, a nutritionist or a healthy lifestyle coach? If so, this is the class for you! From exploring food science to actually preparing healthy snacks and entrees for your future clients, you will learn how to achieve the optimal nutritional benefit from foods at every stage of development. At the end of the week, we will host our own health fair with food samples and stations geared toward healthy lifestyle. Families are invited!
- **Rhythm Zone:** Rhythm Zone will be an exploration of drumming in the genres of rock, jazz, and world beat music. You will learn many of the classic elements of drumming, create simple compositions and learn the basics of reading music while having fun! At the end of the week, you will give a special performance of the music composed during the class. Family and friends are all invited to the closing performance in the rhythm zone.

Full-Day Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Adventures in Medical Careers:** What happens on the other end of 911? Help Harry Healthcare, a fictitious character, navigate the healthcare system from beginning to end. Who sews up Harry's heart or checks his blood under the microscope? Discover health care careers from A to Z by becoming immersed in various health care environments! By touring facilities like VCU's Center for Human Simulation and Patient Safety, you will gain firsthand knowledge of the healthcare industry. On the last day of class, you will give a poster presentation on your favorite health profession and the steps necessary to pursue this career path.
- **Eco Adventure:** Eco-Adventure is a very hands-on, interactive learning opportunity for anyone interested in nature and careers that start in the great outdoors. Each day, we will head to the James and other local parks to learn about geology, botany, water ecology, and the eco-system of Richmond's very special urban river system. Take the opportunity to participate in outdoor adventure activities like hiking, climbing, wading in water with dip nets, log rolling, and building survival shelters! Plan to get wet, dirty and have lots of fun!



[2016 Discovery Class Descriptions](#)

Week 2: August 8-12

Morning Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Funcounting: Accounting Made Fun!**: Do you ever sit in math class wondering, "When am I ever going to use this outside of class?" Math is everywhere in the finance industry! Come join us for an exploration into the world of accountants where you'll have the chance to manage financial portfolios for mock families and businesses. In the process, learn about key elements of money management such as taxes and interest, budgets and financial plans, and savings and investments.
- **Project Write Now**: Have you ever had anything important to say, but you weren't quite sure how to say it? Podium's "Project Write Now!" wants to help! We will be looking at and exploring all the different ways to speak your mind and express yourself. From music to movies, from poetry to short stories, and from debate to spitting bars, we will be looking at all forms of self-expression. Join us and develop your voice so that you never feel like you don't have the tools to stand up and speak out.

Afternoon Classes: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Peculiar Painting**: This is a painting class that requires no paint! You will use unconventional materials like repurposed products, found tools and everyday items to create beautiful works of art. We will be thinking about color, texture and sustainability to encourage new ways of breaking the rules and becoming imaginative artists and thinkers. There will be presentations of contemporary artists using collage and found materials and daily painting projects. At the end of the week you will complete a larger painting and we will think about the ways materials can tell a story.
- **Theatre Discovery**: Love theatre? Love performing? Create an entire play from scratch using your talents and those of other students. Learn improvisational structures and ensemble building techniques. You will be exposed to musical and dance elements as a part of this theatrical presentation. The class will culminate in a performance on the last day.

Full-Day Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Fundamentals of Game Creation**: Have you ever wondered what makes an Angry Bird fly? Where all the Candy you're Crushing comes from? If you answered yes to either of these questions, this class is for you. We'll be exploring game development fundamentals, including art, programming, and design, over the class of this class. When it's over, you'll have something you made that you can play - and your friends can ask you what makes it tick! This class will culminate in a Q&A session with families to discuss the technology used in class and what students learned.
- **Movie Making 101**: Do you have a movie idea knocking around in your head? Does it play on repeat on the silver screen in your mind? Movie Making 101 is a class where we make those cinematic dreams a reality. You will gain a basic knowledge of a wide variety of filmmaking skills, such as screenwriting, storyboarding, camera operating, sound mixing, lighting, production scheduling, and editing. You will work as a team to produce one 2-4 minute short film that tells a unique "Richmond Story." The class culminates with a film screening for friends and family.



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Week 3: August 15-19

Morning Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Fit for Life:** Are you interested in sports management, physical therapy or athletic training? This exciting, hands on class will cover exercise science, health and wellness and options for future careers! This interactive week of exploration includes visits to facilities like the VCU Run Lab, Siegel Center and the Exercise Physiology lab. You will create a health and wellness reference guide with nutrition concepts and tips. The week will culminate with partner presentations and families are encouraged to attend! Learn how to be healthy and fit for life!
- **Trip to Italy!:** Travel to Italy without leaving Richmond! We will plan a trip to Italy, visit a museum, and become artists and chefs preparing a delicious Italian dessert! From packing, booking flights, choosing a place to stay, using public transportation, to finding the perfect restaurant and ordering a delicious meal, we will learn all of the important steps to plan our trip. This class will be taught by a native Italian instructor who will teach you about the culture and heritage of Italy. The class will culminate in a cooking lesson and you can bring a taste of Italy home with you!

Afternoon Classes: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Spa Entrepreneurs:** Are you a budding entrepreneur? Join this class to learn how to make luxurious body butters, soy candles, bath bombs and even toothpaste! You will learn about various oils, herbs and butters and how to make your very own toiletries from scratch. Your creations will be labeled and ready for use or sale by the end of this class. Get ready to showcase your own signature product line on the last day of class!
- **Urban Planning & Murals:** Have you ever wanted to change or improve something in your neighborhood? Join this class to gain basic knowledge in the career of urban planning and express your new ideas through an artistic mural. Learn from an international graffiti artist how to turn planning and artistic expression into an exciting career! By the end of this class, you will have participated in a group mural project, publicly sharing your ideas about positive community planning with family and friends.

Full-Day Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Amphibian Ecology:** Are you curious about amphibians? Have you ever dreamed of being a wildlife biologist? Explore the ecology of amphibians in Virginia and career opportunities working with wildlife in this class! We will focus on the ecological principle of predation (where a predator feeds on its prey). You will design an experiment to test how aposematic (warning) coloration on amphibians influences predation rates by creating clay models to deploy in nature. This class will culminate in a showcase where you will present on your favorite amphibian and display your art work. Families are invited to attend!
- **Marketing MIXtape:** The Marketing Mixtape is a class designed to give you unique insight into the marketing industry. To explore marketing, you will be invited to select a favorite product or service and examine the marketing techniques behind it. As a result of this class, you'll have an understanding of the marketing industry and potential career paths. You will walk away with your own "MIXtapes," including discoveries made about the product or service you chose, and implications about what it could mean for those businesses. This class will culminate in a final presentation.



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Week 4: August 22-26

Morning Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- **Animation, Science and Art:** Learn about evolution, science, and animation! Using interactive and creative activities, you will 'evolve' your own plants and animals through your own drawings, then name and categorize them based off of scientific principles. Later, we'll scan these drawings into a computer, and begin animating them using programs such as Adobe Photoshop and After Effects, producing your own animations from your artwork! Families are invited to attend on the final day of class to see these animations come to life!
- **Wild Science:** Come explore the natural world in Richmond! Wild Science is an interactive and hands-on class designed to educate and inspire future scientists. We will explore the fields of ecology, ornithology, forestry, and restoration using techniques used by scientists. You will record data that will be submitted into citizen science programs as well as design your very own experiment to take home! Be prepared for fun, hiking and interacting with nature!

Afternoon Classes: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Explore Your Mind: Developmental Neuroscience:** You use your brain every day, but have you ever wondered how the brain actually works? Come out and learn how your brain and nervous system are formed and more importantly, how they work! We will be learning the fundamentals of developmental biology and neuroscience and performing cool hands-on experiments using zebrafish as a model system.
- **X Factor:** Do you have plans to be the next big star? Are you wondering what it takes to "make it" in the music industry? Join this class for a crash class on how to find success in the music world. With an instructor that has experience with a radio station, record label, recording studio and is currently in an actual band, you will get a real world perspective on careers in the music industry. You will even get a chance to jump start your future career through singing and song writing in this class! At the end of the week, you will get to share what you have learned with family and friends through a closing showcase. Follow your passion and sign up today!

Full-Day Classes: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- **Culture, Cuisine and Cooking:** Grab your passports! We will be exploring our world through culinary art. This culinary adventure will take us all over the globe from Europe to Mexico and back again. You will learn culinary skills, menu planning, nutrition, and more! Get ready for your taste buds to be mesmerized by exotic cuisines, herbs and spices. You will prepare a specific entrée and present the culture and traditions specific to the chosen cuisine on the last day and families are invited! You will also receive a certificate and recipe booklet at the end of the class. Learn about your global neighbors while learning fundamental culinary skills!
- **Comic Writers:** Good writers are needed in every field, from business to government, and skills in this area will serve you well no matter what career you choose! In this class, you will learn skills like writing, editing, analysis, and effective communication through comics. As the main character in your own story, you will learn how to creatively communicate through writing and art by sharing about your life and your most meaningful memories. By the end of this class, you will leave with a portfolio of your work to share with family and friends.