

Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo Preschool Science Programs

Balance

What makes one object stay put, and another fall over? Why do you put your arms out when you walk across a log? Why is it easier to balance when you hold in your stomach? Find out the answers in this exciting class about balance.

Beautiful Botany

Are plants alive? How are plants alike and different from us? Find out how plants survive and thrive all around us, and how we wouldn't survive without them. Explore the beautiful diversity of plants in our local area and make an artistic leaf print to take home with you.

Bug Buddies

Get close to live insects and other arthropods, see some of our preserved bug buddies and (weather permitting) go on a bug hunt. This is a great opportunity to get close to a variety of creepers and crawlers.

Junior Geologists

See some of the rocks, minerals and fossils in our collection. Examine volcanic glass and a rock that floats! Learn about sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. Start a collection with us and learn why geology rocks!

Light Fantastic

Join us to investigate light, explore colors and play with shadows. Experiment with prisms, lenses, lights and filters. Make rainbows and build shadow puppets.

Mysterious Magnets

What are magnets and what makes them so special? Why do they stick to some things and not to others? Why do some attract each other and others repel? Mess around with all sorts of magnets and uncover the seemingly mysterious properties that make magnets so unique (and fun!).

Roller Coasters

Build the ultimate roller coaster. Use flexible track and marbles to explore friction, acceleration and fun!

Sink and Float

Why does a giant log of wood float in water and a tiny marble sink? Through experimentation, kids learn about the properties of materials that make them float, or sink, and why density is more important than weight when it comes to buoyancy.

Towers

Can you build a tower that touches the ceiling? Find out in this class about building sturdy structures.

Zoo Animals

Meet live animals at the Jr. Museum & Zoo, like hedgehogs, snakes, lizards, rabbits, birds, ferrets, rats or insects. Learn about the amazing ways these animals stay alive in the wild, and find out about their life here at the zoo.