



WEEKLY THEMES (from 2023)

NOTE: Order of themes may vary based on location! We always start with a Vacation theme and end with Carnival Week. Carnival may be week 6, 8, or 9 (depending on location).

	Theme	Description	Trips
1	Bonjour, Summer Vacation! The Magic of the City	We put on our tourist caps this week and uncover the wonder and excitement of our own city! Campers look at our city's vastly diverse cultures as well as the NYC culture that binds us all together as New Yorkers, learn about the city's iconic buildings, play games that uncover the amazing feat of engineering that is NYC's subway system, and get exposed to NYC's role as arts capital of the world. We'll squeeze in some history, too, as we look at what NYC was like before it was NYC.	Luna Park in Coney Island
2	Science Lab I: Chemistry & Art	OK, science lovers (who isn't?!) – this week is for experiments, potions, and other scientific exploration. We will look at the science behind some common chemical reactions, like bubbles and oxidation, and do all kinds of fun experiments. Campers do hands-on experiments, make messes, and make art out of their messes – all while learning about basic chemistry concepts and conducting experiments to test and investigate different chemical reactions and properties. We explore concepts such as surface tension, buoyancy, chemical reactions, and mixtures, solvents, and suspensions. We also make bubble art, art with ice, make our own dye and other chemistry-related art.	Liberty Science Center
3	The Amazing Rat (and Other Tales of Urban Survival)	Did you know that a group of rats is called a mischief? Rats – yes, rats! – are fascinating creatures. Their whiskers are more sensitive than human fingertips, they are social conformists, and they can expel body heat through their long tails. Campers take a deep look at the animals and ecosystems that survive – and even thrive – within the city. They learn about the animals that call NYC home as well as the tourists that are just passing through. This theme takes a fascinating look at life cycles and habitats, and survival in NYC. We learn the fascinating facts about how rats and pigeons thrive, as well as some of our more... acceptable... city dwellers like squirrels and hawks.	Bronx Zoo
4	Cooking I: Kitchen Magic	Bake Sale! From cookies and cakes to pies and breads, campers learn new recipes, techniques, and tips to create delicious baked treats. They work with a variety of ingredients and kitchen tools, while learning about kitchen safety and how to properly measure and mix ingredients. (We are gluten-free friendly!) Then campers set up and run their own bake sale, decorating their own packaging, making signs, and pricing their wares. They bring home treats and a recipe book filled with their creations to share with family and friends. Oh yeah, and we eat!	BK: City Growers Farm Tour and Workshop UWS: Queens County Farm and Workshop
5	Magic, Mystery, Illusions, and Improv!	Abracadabra! Poof! Campers explore the world of magic, illusions, and improv theater. They learn about the clever eye and brain, and how they work together to plays tricks on you! Improv is a big part of this week – you gotta have stage game to be a trickster! Campers learn different types of magic tricks, discover the secrets of optical illusions, and then create their own magic tricks and illusions. They also watch clips of famous magicians and illusionists, gaining an understanding of stage presence, and practice improvisational acting in order to create their own magic and improv show for an audience at the end of the week!	Improv 4 Kids Show & Workshop



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6	Science Lab II: Physics and Building	<p>Build it, and they will come. Take it apart, and they will also come! From a tinker lab, to cardboard Gotham, to Rube Goldberg contraptions, to the highest tower competition, this is a week for kids who are pro tinkerers or who just love Lego, blocks, or making things with cardboard! EVERYONE loves Builders week. Get ready to take things apart and put them back together, build, make, and construct! Campers deconstruct things to look at how they're built, then design and build their own ideas.</p> <p>Science Lab II highlights the practical applications of physics and engineering for kids with all levels of interest. Campers explore physics concepts such as motion, potential and kinetic energy, and load bearing, and engage in hands-on demonstrations and experiments that illustrate these concepts and help campers make their own ideas better. We are sure to build on prior knowledge, to make the learning more engaging and exciting for everyone!</p>	NY Hall of Science
7	Cooking II: Culture Kitchen	Food is culture and culture is food. Campers learn how to cook and bake traditional dishes from the target language culture, and practice their language skills by following recipes and interacting with the stories behind the traditions. We uncover the secrets of cooking while eating our delicious creations. Campers visit local markets and restaurants, learn basic cooking and baking techniques, experiment with different foods and flavors, and create their own recipe book. They compare home cooking vs commercial food preparation, as well.	TBA! Trip/event may include: Local farm, bakery, and/or commercial restaurant kitchen, local culture-based eateries, onsite cooking class
8	Science Lab III: Dr. You! An Amazing Human Body Adventure	We explore our incredible human bodies, with a special focus on the amazing hand. Campers participate in a variety of hands-on (ha) activities and experiments that teach them about the anatomy and function of the hand and how it allows us to grip, hold, and manipulate objects. They learn about how bones, muscles, and nerves work together to make the hand one of the most versatile and complex parts of the body. Depending on your camper's age, they will variously: Create a working 3D model of a hand with an emphasis on joints. Do "Hand Yoga" to learn different exercises to improve dexterity and strength. Learn some "Hand Magic" where they do hand illusions and perform magic tricks. Campers learn about the incredible capabilities of the human hand and how it helps us to do incredible things. They leave the camp with a new appreciation for their own hands and an understanding of how to use them!	American Museum of Natural History



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9	Carnival Magic!	Carnival Week is an enduring favorite – an exciting week that encompasses the fun of the whole summer. Campers make their own carnival games, using (shhh!) arithmetic and geometry to construct fun carnival games. Magic tricks, physical games, and optical illusions make a comeback this week as we prepare for our big Carnival Day to celebrate the end of the season! New for 2023: Campers choose what they're interested in working on at the beginning of the week, then in teams, they construct the games, develop and practice magic tricks, craft their own masks and costumes, decorate the building for the big day, and run a full Carnival in which every camper has an important role. On Carnival Day, campers set up different stations around the building, run the Carnival from top to bottom, and show off their talents, such as singing, dancing, comedy, or magic tricks, in a carnival-themed talent show. Carnival Week is always a popular week that sells out fast!	Luna Park in Coney Island
10	All-Outdoor Camp! Summer Into Fall	Spend all day outdoors for the last gasp of summer! Science+art activities designed around nature's transition from summer to fall. Observe how nature is changing: Seed pods, fading flowers, changing/falling leaves, shedding bark, what insects and birds we are observing, what foods are in season now! Our naturalists will spend their days in local parks (Fort Greene Park (looking at ginkgos and other trees as well as observing squirrels and birds), Borough Hall Greenmarket, Cadman Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park (observing native plantings and learning about native Brooklyn shore ecology at the BBP Conservancy education center), and/or Prospect Park (native flora). Rain plan: Possible visits to Brooklyn Museum, AMNH, Children's Museum, Transit Museum, and other sheltering spots around the neighborhood.	See Description