**Activity Guide**

**Alphabet Treasure Hunt:** See if you can find things that begin with every letter in nature.

**Animal Tracks!:** Find animal tracks or have kids make their own in mud. Use Plaster of Paris to fill in the tracks. All you need is Plaster of Paris, Ziplock bags for on-the-go and water. Let them dry and kids can take them home. Rent books from the library about the animals that live around here so the kids can identify the tracks and learn about the local fauna. See directions [here](https://frugalfun4boys.com/how-to-make-a-mold-of-animal-tracks-with-plaster-of-paris/).

**Angry Birds**: Play Angry Birds with water balloons. Directions [here](https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2011/05/angry-birds-inspired-water-balloon-game.html).

**Around the World:** Theme each day with a different food or activity from countries around the world. Check out a children’s book about each of those countries from the library so students can learn about other cultures.

**Build a Bird Feeder:** There are a thousand ways to build simple bird feeders- see ideas [here](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/bird-feeders-for-kids-to-make-2764688). Look up what local birds like to eat and teach kids about the types of birds in this region. You can also make a journal so kids can draw and write about the birds they see eating from their bird feeder. Have kids bring them home and share what they find!

**Build a Rocket:** Use simple materials to build a rocket! All you need is paper, tape, scissors, water, paper towels, Alka-Seltzer, a timer and film canisters (which can be ordered on amazon). See directions [here](https://www.imaginationstationtoledo.org/educator/activities/rockets)!

**Build a Volcano!:** All you need is a water bottle, baking soda, vinegar, dirt and food coloring. Super easy- see directions [here](https://confidencemeetsparenting.com/volcano/).

**Camp Newspaper:** Start a camp newspaper. Have the kids brainstorm the different sections they want like news articles, features stories, editorials, sports, classified, etc. They might even want to include a daily crossword puzzle. Choose different campers each day to create the newspaper and make enough copies to hand out to everyone on the last day. You can even get other Academy groups to join in for a bigger edition!

**Chalk Art:** Make a hopscotch of 4-square with chalk or have kids design and draw a mural. Check in with Program Director beforehand to make sure you pick an appropriate spot.

**Circus:** Have the kids put on different circus acts. “Tightrope” walking can be on the slackline, you can build stilts out of tin cans, do gymnastics, practice easy magic trips, etc.

**Comic Book:** Have kids draw a “comic book” of all the things they’ve done that summer. Have them add to the comic book every day with the activities they did at camp.

**Concert on Main Street:** Make instruments from found objects, have the kids choose their favorite songs and perform a concert on Main Street or in the park. Have rehearsals all week leading up to it, let kids have solos, perform duets, etc.

**Cook-off!**: Surprise students with a selection of ingredients and have them compete in groups to make the tastiest dish! The dishes can be rated by taste, presentation, creativity, etc. Extra cooking supplies can be checked out from the gear shed. [Here](https://frugalminimalistkitchen.com/chopped-home-challenge-ingredient-ideas/) are some tips!

**Cookie Contest:** Have a cookie decorating contest! You can give them a theme or let them use their full imaginations.

**Day Camping:** Not an overnight group? Have a mock camp-out where kids can set up tents, build a fire and make s’mores.

**Design a Game:** Give kids a few items or use items found in nature to create their own game. Kids can be put into groups and given a certain amount of time to come up with their game. When time is up, kids can explain their games to their group and at the end, everyone can vote on which game was their favorite.

**Donor Thank Yous:** Have kids draw pictures of write letters to Academy donors about how much fun they’re having! Give them to admin staff to mail to donors.

**Farmer’s Market:** Have the kids make fun crafts during the week and on the last day, host a “sale” for parents. All proceeds can go to a charity of your group’s choosing.

**Flash Mob!** Make up a dance to a fun song and have kids perform a flash mob in different fun locations around town, or at pick-up for the parents.

**Flora and Fauna:** Call Jon Sir Jesse (970) 728-0639 for an edible plant walk (if it’s within budget), or check some local flora/fauna books out from the library and have kids identify the things they find.

**Flower Pressing:** Hunt for flowers and press them so kids can take them home as memory. Remember to only take a couple flowers each, and from large groves of flowers where there are more than 10. Don’t pick all the flowers from one spot! [Here](https://www.wikihow.com/Press-Flowers) are the directions, but you can ask the Art Director for help with the more complicated methods.

**Gold Panning:** Use small strainers, a sheet, etc. and have kids go down to the river and sift for cool rocks. Check out a book from the library about the types of rocks found in our area and have kids identify them. You could even put a “point system” in place for certain types of rocks and kids get rewards for finding them. You can also set up a trading system so kids can trade their rocks and take home their favorites. Pair this with a trip to the museum to learn about local mining history.

**Ice Cream:** Make ice cream in a bag! Add fun ingredients once it’s done so kids can make their favorite flavor. See directions [here](https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/ice-cream-in-a-bag/).

**Make Playdough or Slime:** Both are easy to make and only require simple ingredients. Look [here](https://www.iheartnaptime.net/play-dough-recipe/) for play dough directions and [here](https://www.iheartnaptime.net/homemade-slime/) for slime!

**Medical Clinic:** Use your WFA/WFR skills to run a simple wilderness medical course. Have kids practice putting splints on each other, aiding “wounds,” etc. Check out more medical supplies from the gear shed.

**Merit Badges:** “Merit Badges” – make a list of things you want your students to accomplish during camp and give them “badges” when they complete them. Whoever gets the most badges at the end of camp wins. Ex: pick up a piece of trash, do something nice for a friend, takes a leadership role in an activity, etc.

**Minute to Win It:** Have a competition with your group involving multiple “minute to win it” games. There are a bunch of ideas [here](https://www.scarymommy.com/minute-to-win-it-games-for-kids/), but the following are a few examples:

* Stack pennies on top of one another. If any fall, you must start over. Whoever has the tallest stack at the end of 1 minute wins.
* Place a cookie on your forehead. You have 1 minute to move the cookie down to your mouth without using your hands.
* Using only your nose, you must push a ball across the floor, from one end of the room to the other in under a minute.
* Tie an empty Kleenex box around your waist and fill it with ping pong balls. You have 1 minute to shake all of the ping pong balls out of the box without using your hands.
* In 1 minute, move as many mini marshmallows from one cup to another using only chopsticks.

**MythBusters!:** Research common myths and set up experiments to prove them right or wrong. Check out [this website](https://www.care.com/c/stories/3867/science-experiments-at-home-14-mythbuster-ac/) for some examples.

**Pen Pals:** Have students write letters to their families, friends, etc. and let them mail them at the post office. Or assign the kids to write letters to each other and ask admin staff to mail them after camp! A fun way for kids to continue their camp experience after they get home.

**Planting Project:** Let kids paint their own flower pots and plant seeds in them to take home. You’ll need small pots, soil, seeds and paint! See [here](https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/gardening-projects-for-your-kids-4049055) for some fun garden-based activities.

**Puzzles:** Use cardstock, cardboard, etc. and have kids draw pictures on them. Let them cut the pieces into a puzzle. Have the kids trade puzzles and work on each other’s. Host a contest on who can complete the puzzles the fastest.

**Rainbow Flowers:** Make a science experiment where kids can turn white flowers into any color they can imagine! All you need is white flowers, food coloring, scissors and cups of water. Can also be used with celery instead of flowers. See directions [here](https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2012/02/transform-those-valentines-day-flowers.html).

**Restaurant!:** Make mock menus, set tables, assign “jobs” (servers, cooks, bussers, etc.) and host a dinner. This can just me among your group, or you can invite parents!

**Rube Goldberg Experiment:** Use found objects and materials to make your own Rube Goldberg contraption! Divide kids into teams and give them a challenge (ex: knock over a cup of water, launch a water balloon). Whoever can do it in the most creative and drawn out way wins. Get some ideas [here](https://tinkerlab.com/engineering-kids-rube-goldberg-machine/)!

**Slip ‘n’ Slide:** Get a large tarp and buckets and make a slip ‘n’ slide by the river!

**Solar Ovens:** Use simple materials to build a solar oven on a hot day! All you need is a cardboard box, scissors, foil, tape, plastic wrap, black construction paper, newspaper and thermometer. See directions [here](https://www.homesciencetools.com/article/how-to-build-a-solar-oven-project/).

**Spy Training:** Use streamers, yarn, etc. to set up a “laser maze” in the forest or in a classroom. Go back and forth until you create a maze of “laser beams” they must navigate without touching. If they touch a beam, they must start over.

**Storytelling:** Let the kids write their story ideas on a piece of paper (or instructors can write them), then fold them up and put them in a jar or a hat. You could separate the kids or let them choose their partners to work together to act out the story prompt they pick. Provide plenty of props to help them be creative and explore their theatrical sides.

**Superhero Capes:** Talk to kids about their own talents and how they can use them to be superheroes. Think of superhero names and logos and make your capes!

**Survivor Challenge:** Break kids into groups and have them compete in who can make the best shelter, build a fire the quickest, find certain things on a map, etc.

**Talent Show:** Let kids know on Monday that you’ll be hosting a talent show at the end of the week. Give students time each day to work on their talent. If they’re nervous to perform alone, they can pair up. Instructors can help students come up with ideas. At the end of the week, host a fun talent show with refreshments, and even invite parents if the kids are excited about it!

**Treasure Hunt:** Spray paint gold rocks and hide them. Send the kids on a scavenger hunt to find them and let them redeem them for fun rewards. Make sure all the gold rocks get picked up… LNT!

**Yoga:** Break up the day with some simple kid yoga. Check out some easy poses [here](https://www.kidsyogastories.com/kids-yoga-poses/)!