

spark

# 2024 Summer Programs



# Program Overview

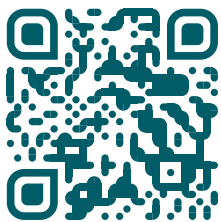
## Spark Summer Program

- For students entering 1st – 6th grade
- May 28 – August 2
- Operates at 6:30am – 6:00pm
- Locations: Abbott, Ackerman, Cather, and Reagan
- Breakfast, lunch and snack
- Fresh fruit available all day
- Summer reading program
- iPad-based learning opportunities
- Weekly field trips\* (on- and off-site)
- Weekly artist spotlight
- Daily STEAM-based exploration
- State-licensed programs
- Weekly registration
- Register for any location regardless of which school your child attends
- \$238/week

## Spark UP

Includes same elements as Spark, plus:

- For students entering 5th & 6th grade
- Daily club choices
- Ice cream Fridays
- Age-appropriate field trips
- Location: Upchurch Elementary
- \$238/week



Register at  
**[MPSFoundation.org/spark](https://MPSFoundation.org/spark)**

**Register soon!** Space is limited.

# Spark Summer Programs

1st – 6th grade | May 28 – August 2 | Operates at 6:30am – 6:00pm | \$238/week

Locations: Abbott, Ackerman, Cather, and Reagan

**1** May 28 – 31

**Topic: Wildlife**

**Mission Brief: Operation Wildlife Adventure**

Agents, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is a thrilling adventure into the heart of the secrets and wonders of wildlife. You will embark on an expedition to witness a spectacular show featuring magnificent wildlife animals and awe-inspiring raptors. This mission requires your utmost attention, stealth, and respect for the wildlife and their habitat. Your discoveries will not only deepen your understanding of nature but also inspire you to become guardians of the environment. Students will engage in lessons and activities related to wildlife and characteristics of animals that help them survive. Lessons will give students a chance to learn about wildlife rangers and endangered species.

 **Field Trip:** Wildlife Encounters and Fontenelle Forest Raptor Program (on site)

 **Artist Spotlight:** P.D. Eastman

**2** June 3 – 7

**Topic: The Science Behind Cartooning**

**Mission Brief: Operation Garfield Galore**

During this week's mission, you will enjoy an exciting journey into the hilarious and charming world of Garfield the cat. One of your tasks is to attend a special screening of a movie featuring the legendary lasagna-loving feline, Garfield. This mission is a purr-fect opportunity for entertainment and fun! Throughout this mission, fuse the elements of STEAM to unlock the mysteries and unveil the secrets behind your beloved cartoon characters. Engage in experiments, creative projects, and hands-on activities to decode the science and artistry behind animation. The projects will allow students to truly become cartoonists and explore the science behind the art of stop motion animation.

 **Field Trip:** Garfield at Village Pointe Theater

 **Artist Spotlight:** Jim Davis

**3** June 10 – 14

**Topic: Habitats & Biomes**

**Mission Brief: Operation Zoo Expedition**

Agents, get ready to attend this exhilarating expedition into the captivating world of the zoo. Your task is to explore and observe the diverse array of fascinating creatures residing within this haven of wildlife. Your mission promises to be an adventure filled with wonder, learning, and appreciation for the animal kingdom and all it includes. Prepare to be amazed by the beauty and diversity of nature! Students will participate in activities and lessons to help them learn more about our environment, both in the wild and how they create suitable habitats in zoos. We will discover more about symbiotic relationships, competition, and migratory patterns in the wild.

 **Field Trip:** Field Trip – Lincoln Zoo

 **Artist Spotlight:** Leo Lionni

**4** June 17 – 21

**Topic: Water is Power**

**Mission Brief: Operation Splash Pad Soiree**

Agents, prepare yourselves for a fun and thrilling escapade into the watery wonders of a splash pad. Your task is to embark on a mission to experience the ultimate summer splash adventure! Your mission promises an unforgettable adventure of aquatic amusement and endless summer fun! Get ready to make a splash and create waves while learning about the power of water. This week will be a great time for students to conduct experiments and learn about water on earth, freshwater vs. saltwater, hydroelectricity, and the water cycle!

 **Field Trip:** Platte River State Park (Splash Pad & Naturalist Program)

 **Artist Spotlight:** Richard Scarry

**5 June 24 – 28**

**Topic: Physics and Motion**  
**Mission Brief: Operation**  
**Bowling Bonanza**

Let's embark on a striking expedition where you'll gather with fellow agents ready to roll into a world of bowling excitement. Equipped with bowling shoes and your best bowling stance, you'll embark on a quest for strikes and fun! Learn about physics and the science behind force and motion as you aim, roll, and strike your way to an unforgettable experience! Students will walk in the shoes of Isaac Newton as they do activities through out the week to explore the Laws of Motion in our world.



**Field Trip:** Western Bowl



**Artist Spotlight:** Margaret Keane

**6 July 1 – 5**

**Topic: Chemistry**  
**Mission Brief: Operation**  
**Foam Frenzy**

This mission is an exhilarating immersion into a foam-tastic extravaganza! Your task is to dive into an epic foam party, where bubbly adventures and frothy fun await! Get ready to frolic and foam your way through a whirlwind of unforgettable experiments in chemistry! Enjoy your mission, agents, and may your bubbles bring endless joy and laughter! Who doesn't love a good science experiment with bubbles and pops! Students will love the lessons focused on the power of chemical reactions!



**Field Trip:** Foam Party (on-site)



**Artist Spotlight:** Paul Klee

**7 July 8 – 12**

**Topic: Small Scale Farming and**  
**Community Business**  
**Mission Brief: Operation**  
**Farm Harvest**

Join your fellow agents on an enriching expedition into the heart of a bustling produce farm. Your task is to explore the bountiful fields, ripe with the vibrant colors and flavors of summer's harvest. Your mission promises an educational and delicious adventure into the world of small scale farming. Get ready to pluck, taste, and appreciate the wholesome goodness of farm-fresh produce! Nebraska is the perfect setting for our students to gain first hand experiences in small scale farming. Lessons in the business and economics of farming will help these young farmers gain new insights into all the workings of a farm.



**Field Trip:** Nelson Farms



**Artist Spotlight:** Mercer Mayer

**8 July 15 – 19**

**Topic: Creativity, Curiosity**  
**and Imagination**  
**Mission Brief: Operation**  
**Museum Adventure**

Rendezvous with other bright adventure seekers, eager to embark on an adventure of discovery and wonder. Your task is to explore a world where learning meets play, and imagination knows no bounds! This mission promises a day of playful learning and boundless exploration. Get ready to unleash your creativity, curiosity, and imagination in a world designed just for you! Students will learn through play as we learn not only more about STEAM through Makerspace manipulatives, but also improve on their ability to work together as a team to create!



**Field Trip:** Children's Museum (1st graders)  
Kiewit Luminarium (2nd-6th graders)



**Artist Spotlight:** Oliver Jeffers



**9** July 22 – 26

## **Topic: Muscles and Movement Spark Field Day**

### **Mission Brief: Operation Movement Mayhem**

Spark Agents, this mission is an action-packed adventure into moving your body in the great outdoors! Your task is to participate in a thrilling field day filled with exciting games, team challenges, and bouncy obstacle course. Your mission on this field day promises an exhilarating blend of games, challenges, and excitement. Get ready to run, jump, laugh, and bond with fellow agents as you explore the science behind moving our bodies. Our lessons this week will encourage students to learn more about exercise science, our body systems, and model making to demonstrate how our joints and ligaments work together.



**Field Trip:** Omaha Sports Complex



**Artist Spotlight:** Dr. Seuss

**10** July 29 – Aug 2

## **Topic: Simple Machines Mission Brief: Operation**

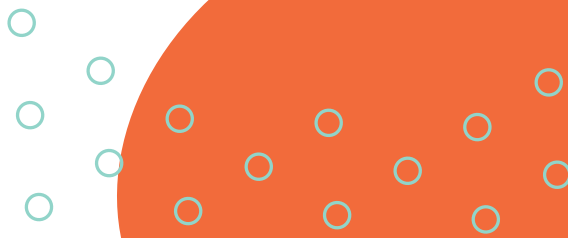
Your final mission is a whimsical journey into a pumpkin patch transformed into a colorful world filled with fun simple machines! Your task is to explore this lively venue, brimming with circus-themed delights created by using the science of simple machines. Your mission promises a day of festive summer fun and excitement amidst the attractions! Get ready to embrace the magic, laughter, and science-themed wonders! Young scientists will spend the week investigating simple machines and creating their own inventions with them!



**Field Trip:** Skinny Bones



**Artist Spotlight:** Walter Wick



# Spark UP



5th – 6th Grade

May 28 – August 2 | Operates at 6:30am – 6:00pm

Location: Upchurch Elementary

\$238/week

Spark UP is our summer program designed exclusively for incoming 5th and 6th graders. We have an epic summer planned, jam-packed with creative adventures, technology challenges, awesome outdoor games, chilling with your friends in the Nest, and ice cream Fridays.



Each week we'll hop on the Spark UP bus for some amazing field trips:

## May 28 – 31

Gifford Farm – Team Challenge:  
Low Ropes Course (on site)

## June 3 – 7

Spare Time – Laser Tag and Bowling

## June 10 – 14

Morrill Hall

## June 17 – 21

Papio Fun Park:  
Go Karts, Mini-Golf, Laser Tag, and More

## June 24 – 28

The Fat Putter / Gene Leahy Mall

## July 1 – 5

Highlander Greenhouse

## July 8 – 12

Luminarium / River Front

## July 15 – 19

UNO Planetarium

## July 22 – 26

Omaha Sports Complex

## July 28 – August 2

Top Golf

