

# LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER...

# NOT!!!

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**I**n days past, summer was a time for relaxation, catching up with friends and just plain ol' having fun. Well, in this day and age, summer is a time for advancement, getting a jump on the competition and preparing yourself for the upcoming school year.

The number of summer camps and programs offered nationwide that are not affiliated with summer school has grown greatly over the years, and they are now offered in almost every conceivable field. Here are some programs that offer advancement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

## DESTINATION SCIENCE

"Destination Science teaches kids that science is not just about Bunsen burners and formulas," the program's website explains. This camp offers activities such as being a coaster scientist and building a fun park, exploring the biggest ecosystem on Earth, building a foot-high robot, participating in an Astronaut Adventure Camp, and much more. For more information, such as locations and dates, visit <https://destinationscience.org/index.php/contact/contact>, e-mail [info@destinationscience.org](mailto:info@destinationscience.org), or call (888) 909.2822.

## SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

This program, known as SEAP, encourages students to pursue science and engineering careers through unique and positive summer science and engineering research experiences. The participants are academically talented

high school students who have expressed an interest in STEM disciplines. The students are placed in Naval laboratories for eight-week summer apprenticeships, where they work with scientists and engineers who act as mentors. The program gives these students exposure to scientific and engineering practices and personnel not available in their school environment. It's a great opportunity! For more information, visit <http://seap.asee.org>.

## NASA EXPLORATION DESIGN CHALLENGE

NASA and Lockheed Martin Corporation are developing the Orion spacecraft, which will carry astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit and on to an asteroid or Mars. Protecting astronauts from radiation on these distant travels is an important — and very real — problem that needs solving. NASA would like your help! The Exploration Design Challenge gives students a chance to research and design ways to protect astronauts from space radiation. The Challenge is virtual and is open to students in kindergarten through grade 12. The deadline to submit students' names for the virtual crews is June 30, 2014. For more information, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/education/edc>. For a complete listing of opportunities offered to students by NASA, visit <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/current-ops-index.html>.

For more STEM programs and camps offered on a national, state or local level, try this website: <http://www.careercornerstone.org/psumcamps.htm#Nationwide>. ■