A black background with a black square

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceSummer Program Ideas to Engage Students

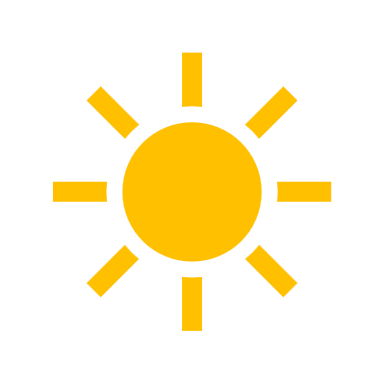
**Activity Ideas**



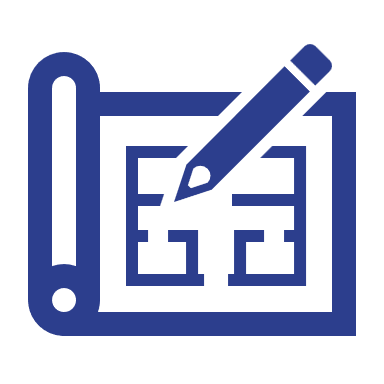
**What to do:** Review these scenarios for ideas and strategies to enrich your summer program and encourage student attendance, whatever grade levels you serve.

**Why it matters:** Incorporating a variety of instructional approaches and engaging activities helps to make learning fun — and that boosts your chances of recruiting and retaining the students who need academic support.

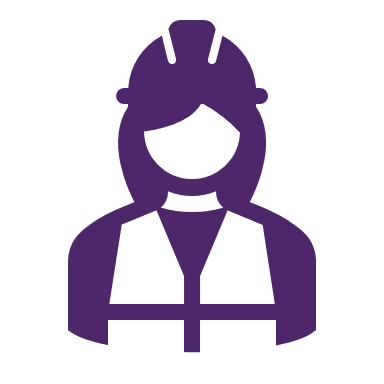
# Camp Fun in the Sun (Elementary)

This camp has a Wacky Water Week unit, during which students practice active reading strategies while reading water-related books such as *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* and *All the Water in the World.* Science activities include making water filters, learning about water pollution, and exploring freshwater and saltwater habitats. Students learn to measure using cups and ounces. Each student also researches and writes about a favorite water animal. Arts and recreation offerings include watercolor painting, water bubble painting, games with water balloons, and sponge bombs. The theme enables the staff to integrate activities in a focused way, keeping kids engaged, learning, and having fun!

# Full STEAM Ahead (Midde School)

This session plan uses project-based learning and focuses on careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) to introduce postsecondary options while students build relationships with peers, adults, and professionals. Each week focuses on a STEM field. For example, during Architecture and Design week, students work with staff mentors to design a building space; they do a basic computer drawing, make a physical model from foam board, and create a showcase of interior design with magazine photos and samples from local paint and fabric stores. Each afternoon students hear from a local architect or design professional during “popsicles with professionals.” Students take a field trip to a local building of notable design, learn about green design, and go to a local art school to hear about the interior design program. Students present their projects each week and receive feedback and awards. Each day, students can participate in free-choice activities such as basketball, arts and crafts, and gardening.

# The 3C Summer Program (High School)

The 3C (College, Community, Career) program works with students all summer to prepare them for employment, place them in a community-focused internship, and link their interests to career goals. Students begin by participating in career assessments, compiling an employment portfolio, and conducting mock interviews. Program staff work with local organizations and businesses to match summer internships to student interests. Students work two or three days a week with their organizations and spend the other days working in groups using their new knowledge to assess the needs of their community or school, and designing ways to address those needs. If necessary, students spend two half-days in academic remediation. College visits and local field trips supplement the learning and make connections to postsecondary career opportunities.

A white rectangular frame with purple border

Description automatically generated

This resource was developed in 2024 by the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC), funded under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and administered by Synergy Enterprises, Inc. under Cooperative Agreement No. 287E230009 with the Department’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the Department or the federal government. This resource is in the public domain and is available at [21stcclcntac.org](http://www.21stcclcntac.org). Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted.