

## Bonjour Language Camps Weekly Themes Summer 2024

**PLEASE NOTE: Some themes may look the same as past themes!  
We always change the activities to avoid direct repeats from one summer to the next.**

	Theme	Description	Trips & Special Events
1	Bonjour, Summer Vacation! Nature in the City	School's out for summer! This week is all about summer sights and sounds, nature, and summer sun.  Summer! What do the plants and animals around us do in summer and how do they change? We think of summer as hot and sunny – but who are our cool shade-loving friends? This week our activities are centered around nature: We make prints with flowers, leaves, and ferns; do fern rubbings (and talk about how ferns grow); find a special stick with which to make talking sticks (and use them all week!); experiment with rain sticks; and string up brilliant suncatchers to hang in our windows at home.	American Museum of Natural History: butterfly exhibit and others
2	Science Lab I: Chemistry + Art	Does the Met have a chemistry wing? It should! This week we do chemistry experiments, make color-changing potions, and explore other scientific concepts, all while turning our chemistry into art! We will look at the science behind some common chemical reactions and experiment with them while we make Met (fridge)-worthy art pieces. Campers do hands-on experiments, make messes, and make art out of their messes – all while conducting experiments to test and investigate different chemical reactions and properties. We explore concepts such as pH, buoyancy, chemical reaction and change, and mixtures, solvents, emulsions, and suspensions. We make color-changing ink, fizzy paint, bubble art, oil-resist paintings, and other chemistry-related art that is a joy to make!	Liberty Science Center
3	Magic+Mystery, Illusions+Improv!	Hocus Pocus! Campers explore the world of illusions, magic, and improv. They learn about the clever eye and brain, and how they work together to play tricks on you. Improv is a big part of this week – you gotta have stage game to be a trickster! Campers discover the secrets of optical illusions, learn different types of magic tricks, 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 of their peers at the end of the week! Abracadabra alakazam! ... *poof*	Magic Show onsite (no trip)
4	Cooking I: Kitchen Chemistry	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, pricing their wares, and hosting their families! They bring home treats and a recipe book filled with their creations to share with family and friends. Oh yeah, and we eat!	UWS: Children's Museum Of Manhattan BK: NYC Transit Museum  Both: Bake Sale! (parents invited)
5	NYC Mascot: The Pigeon (and the Comedy Thereof)	Although this theme takes a fascinating look at life cycles, habitats, biology, and urban nature, the best part of this week is making hilarious pigeon cartoons and videos. Did you know that pigeons were one of the first animals that humans domesticated? Pigeons are expert navigators, they can fly 50mph, and they can recognize themselves in a reflection! Campers observe, document, and take a deep look at these captivating creatures and how they survive – and thrive – within our city. And then... they personify them in art and video!	American Museum of Natural History

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<b>6</b>	Science Lab II: Build It! Tear It Down!	<p>Build it, and they will come. Take it apart, and they will also come! From a tinker lab, to a 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 paper and cardboard! EVERYONE loves Builders week.</p> <p>Science Lab II highlights the practical applications of physics and engineering for kids with ALL levels of interest. Campers explore techniques and concepts such as joinery, load bearing, equilibrium, and force, and engage in hands-on 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
<b>7</b>	Cooking II: Street Food Culture	Food is culture and culture is food! Campers learn how to cook and bake traditional street food from some of the cultures that speak our target languages. They practice their language skills by following recipes and interacting with the stories behind the food traditions. We uncover the secrets of cooking and special ingredients, all while eating our delicious creations! Campers will visit food trucks and a local market, learn basic cooking and baking techniques, experiment with different foods and flavors, and star in their own food truck cooking show!	Trip/event may include: Local farm, bakery, and/or commercial restaurant kitchen, local culture-based eateries, onsite cooking class
<b>8</b>	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!	National Museum of Mathematics

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<b>9</b>	Carnival Magic!	<p>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 2024: 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!</p>	<p>Trip (camper favorite!): Luna Park, historic amusement park on Coney Island that features classic carnival-style rides. Children ride only age-appropriate rides!</p> <p>Event: End-of-Summer Carnival! (parents invited) Camper-led and -created carnival with tricks, games, and prizes!</p>
<b>10</b>	Nature Days! An All-Outdoor (4-day) Adventure	<p>Spend all day outdoors for this last gasp of summer! Science and art activities designed around nature's transition into fall. Check out how nature is changing: Seed pods are popping, flowers are fading, leaves are changing/falling, bark is sloughing off, some insects and birds are preparing, and we... are eating the veggies and fruits in peak season! Our naturalists will spend their days in our city's largest shady oases (CP, PP, FGP, etc). Plenty of fresh air, right before school starts!</p> <p><u>Rain plan</u>: Visits to AMNH, Brooklyn Museum, Children's Museum, Transit Museum, and other sheltering spots around our neighborhoods. We will have mobile projects and can hold camp anywhere!</p>	<i>no trip</i>