



After-School Classes: YSI's Best Kept Secret!

Amagical thing happens most every afternoon at YSI's Alum Rock, Sanborn and Vasona Science and Nature Centers: kids come to learn science!

Imagine the scene, pre-K to fourth grade kids who have just finished a full day of school arrive with smiles and curiosity, ready for hands-on interactive science. Each week brings a different theme covering the gamut of life and physical science topics, and each day of that week is tailored to a specific age group.

Three-and-a-half-year-old Max Kaplan comes to YSI Vasona many Mondays at 3:45 PM for the Pre-K -- K class, most recently for "Underground Adventure." In the course of 75 minutes, Max and his exploring buddies discovered how most holes are actually homes, learning about and meeting burrowing animals. They made and crawled through their own "burrow," then went outside to look in the dirt for the smaller ones made by animals.

"Max is not only learning science," commented Max's dad, Jon Kaplan, to a recent gathering of YSI supporters, "what's even more exciting is that Max is learning to love learning." Jon knows that a love of learning will serve Max every day, and contribute to his ability to thrive.

In another popular class, "Goop and Glop," kids learn about



Photo by Bonnie LeMat

Future engineers take electronic equipment apart.

the fascinating properties of solids and liquids in a "messy" (and safe!) introduction to chemistry. These explorations deepen a child's understanding of the world around them.

Like our Summer Science Camps and School Programs, YSI's After-School classes are hands-on and interactive, taught by our veteran teachers who know how to make science engaging and fun. If your child loved summer camp or a classroom program and is eager to explore even more, then they'll love YSI After-School.

"What's exceptional about YSI's mission and programs is that we are teaching chemistry, biology, physics, geology and astronomy in ways that are accessible for even our youngest students," stated YSI's Executive Director, Susanne Mulcahy. "With science learning comes development of critical thinking skills, which we believe are crucial to a child's long-term academic success."

You can find our Winter After-School Program schedule on page 6 of this newsletter. If you are new to YSI After-School, sign up for two classes and get the second one free. Or, if you're returning, introduce a friend who is new to YSI and you'll both get the second class free.

Then, watch the magic unfold as your child learns to love science and learning the YSI way!

Photo by Bonnie LeMat



Students investigate living pond organisms.



Gratitude For Our Donors

Founded in 1953, **Youth Science Institute** is dedicated to providing and enriching science education in schools and the community. We engage more than 50,000 Pre-K – 12th grade students and adults annually. Program Fees cover only 42% of our cost to operate our centers and deliver programs. We are deeply grateful to our Donors and Supporters who underwrite the balance with their investments in our mission.

Donors

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\$10,000-24,999

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Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of our list. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.



Supporter Spotlight

Thanks to our generous partners who support us with financial and in-kind donations.

The Robert Brownlee Foundation

Since 1986, the Robert Brownlee Foundation has taken a leadership role in supporting hands-on K-12 science education programs in the Bay Area. Many organizations have benefited greatly from the Foundation's partnership and vision.

The Brownlee Foundation and YSI share a special history. The Foundation is proud to cite Robert's early experiences as a "YSI kid." His participation in YSI programs contributed to his life-long work as a scientist, naturalist and teacher. To this day,

Robert's memory and impact live on in the work of his Foundation.

YSI is proud to have been a part of kindling Robert's passion for science, and grateful for the ongoing operating support it has received from the Foundation. In addition, the Brownlee Foundation made a leadership gift of \$150,000 for the Vasona Classroom Expansion Project, furthering Robert's legacy as we turn our long-term vision for science education into reality.



Photo by Mary Carlson

Our new **Native Garden at the YSI Alum Rock Center** has received the stamp of approval from the California Native Plant Society. It was installed this past spring as an Eagle Scout project and completed as an Earth Day project. Thanks to Eagle Scout Jonathan Mundwyler, Earth Day Volunteers and Alum Rock Park Rangers. Special thanks to PG&E for underwriting the Earth Day Project.

Tour de Tahoe Sponsors

Compass Pointe Properties

408.267.0120

Our first Tour de Tahoe Networking Fundraiser was



hosted by the outstanding team of John Armando, Sandy Wells, Madeline Knight and Ann Freitas of Compass Pointe Properties, a full service residential and commercial real estate firm.

"We look forward to making this an annual event," said John Armando. "We're proud to support YSI and the great work they do teaching kids science and making a difference in our community." YSI is honored to partner with Compass Pointe in making a difference!

ST Bicycle Store

San Jose

www.stbikes.com

ST Bicycle Store was voted 2005 Best Bike Shop in the Valley by Metro Magazine, and we vote them Best Tour de Tahoe Team Sponsor!

In addition to technical support, they kept our team well outfitted in YSI Team Jerseys, and made sure the whole team was ready to roll.



A.P. Stumps Chop House

www.apstumps.com

Our second Tour de Tahoe Networking Fundraiser,



underwritten in part by A.P. Stumps and held on their beautiful outdoor patio, was the perfect setting to support the team and give guests a chance to interact with several of YSI's staff and teaching animals.



Composer Software

www.flashcomposer.com

FlashComposer is a revolutionary new web-based software program that enables anyone to create high quality multimedia web sites and presentations in minutes. Composer enabled us to do just that with our Team YSI Tour de Tahoe website at www.yisi-tahoe.com.

Row Eleven Wine Company

www.roweleven.com

A.P. Stumps guests enjoyed award-winning wines donated by Row Eleven. We're grateful for their contribution to a great event!



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We need your help to update our database:

- ◆ If you are receiving more than one printed newsletter, please let us know.
- ◆ If you have not been receiving our electronic notices and would like to, please send us your email address.
- ◆ If you would like to be removed from our mailing database, please let us know.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us save resources!

info@ysi-ca.org

408.356.4945 x15 fax: 408.358.3683

www.youthscience.org

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Don't-Miss Events

Fantasy of Lights

YSI to Participate

Each year, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department's Fantasy of Lights at Vasona Park delights more than 80,000 visitors and supports projects and programs that directly benefit the park users. For the first time this year YSI and the YSI Guild are proud to sponsor one of the light displays, in support of the tremendous partnership we have with Santa Clara County Parks at Vasona and Sanborn. The event runs nightly from 6 P.M.-10 P.M., November 25 - December 31. For information, visit www.ParkHere.org, or call 408.355.2201. Look for our sponsor sign toward the end of the drive!



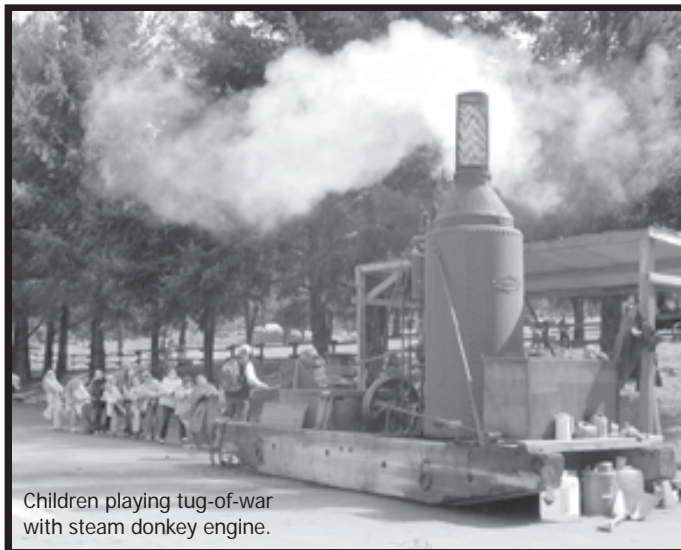
2006 Summer Science Camp

Brochures with registration information will be mailed out in early March.

Forest Conservation Days at Sanborn Park

Saturday and Sunday, March 25 - 26, 2006

Watch a 100-year-old Steam Donkey engine at work. See how pencils are made. Join the Northern California Society of American Foresters for activities that include guided walks through the redwoods. This culminates a week long event attended by hundreds of school children. **Park entry fee is \$5 per car.**



Children playing tug-of-war with steam donkey engine.

Insect Fair at YSI Sanborn Save the Date

Walking sticks, silkworms and hissing cockroaches will be there, so why not you? The 2006 YSI Insect Fair will be held on Saturday, May 20 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



Photo by Bonnie LeWat

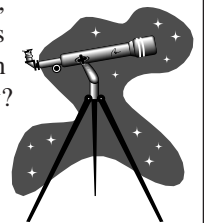
Family Science Safaris

Fees: \$12/adult, \$6/student (high school and under) for all Science Safaris. **Registration required.** Register by calling 408.356.4945 or using the form on page 7.

Starry Safari

YSI welcomes the Astronomical Society of the Pacific

This season's safari includes a special bonus. YSI is proud to welcome the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. An ASP educator will start the evening with entertaining hands-on activities for the whole family. These indoor activities will be followed by outdoor telescope viewing, weather permitting. We will focus our scopes on the crescent Moon, Saturn, Mars, the Orion Nebula, the Pleiades... how late can you stay? Join us for an evening of astronomy fun!



Who: All ages welcome
Where: Vasona Park, Los Gatos
When: Thursday, March 2, 6:45 P.M.– 9:00 P.M.
Code: SS03-02
Leader: Heather McFarland, Instructor

Inkle Weaving

Around for centuries, the inkle loom was used for weaving narrow strips of cloth or ribbon that are used as belts, headbands or straps. Learn how to set up and weave a project. You'll go home with a pair of shoelaces you've created and plans for building your own inkle loom. Bring a lunch to eat in the park.

Who: Ages 7 to adult
Where: Vasona Park, Los Gatos
When: Saturday, January 21, 10 A.M.– 2:30 P.M. **Code:** VS01-21
When: Saturday, January 28, 10 A.M.– 2:30 P.M. **Code:** VS01-28

Photo by Daniel Margulies

Classroom Expansion



Photo by Bonnie LeMat

Local dignitaries joined YSI Board members, supporters and staff to break ground on YSI's Classroom Expansion Project. From left: Mike Blach, President, Blach Construction Company; Lisa Killough, Director, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation; Mike Wasserman, Mayor, Los Gatos; Jim and Michelle Murphy, Robert Brownlee Foundation; Nancy Valby, YSI Board President; Susanne Mulcahy, YSI Executive Director; Miki Gash, Marty Imwalle and Marcia Vosti, YSI Guild; Shveta Saggar, Assemblyman Ira Ruskin's office.

Tour de Tahoe Success!

Mark Lohbeck and Greg Melton celebrate their circumnavigation of Lake Tahoe.



On the unseasonably cold and beautifully clear Sunday morning of September 11th, our YSI Tour de Tahoe Team successfully completed their 35 and 72 mile routes around Lake Tahoe. Your support inspired them each and every mile they pedaled, and the \$5,000 team fundraising goal was met!



Sherry Crowley, Sharon Lohbeck, Derek DeMarco, Mark Lohbeck, Greg Melton and Pablo Wallin. Not Pictured: Joel Farson and Jon Scott.



Photo by Bonnie LeMat

Host Gil Decker, Brian Conlisk and Larry Stone.

Truly A Splendid Autumn Afternoon!

For the second year in a row, Gil and Sandy Decker hosted 75 of the Youth Science Institute's friends and supporters at their gorgeous craftsman home for what was truly a splendid afternoon for a garden party and silent auction. Thanks to the Decker's underwriting, 100% of the \$10,000 raised at the auction goes directly to YSI school programs.



Photo by Kurt Carlson

20th Annual Wildlife Festival

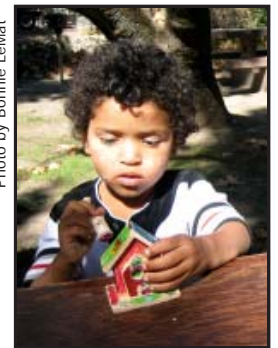


Photo by Bonnie LeMat

"Wow, Mom! I got to hold a snake and touch a bearded dragon! Those plants eat bugs! That Sharkmobile sure was great! Awesome, I found mouse bones in that owl pellet! I got to hug Bandit the Raccoon! That hawk flew right over my head! I had so much fun...can we come back next year?!"



Photos by Bonnie LeMat





Vasona After-School Science Classes

Fees: \$15 per child, per class. All classes held from 3:45 – 5:00 P.M.

Monday: Pre-K - K

Tuesday: K - 1st

Wednesday: 1st and 2nd

Thursday: 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Critter Camouflage

Discover how and why animals hide themselves by camouflage. Try your hand at a camouflage art project. Play Hide and Hide instead of Hide and Seek.

January 9-12

Codes: V1-9M, V1-10T, V1-11W, V1-12Th

The Polar Express

All aboard! Join us as we explore the harsh conditions of the Earth's poles. How have animals adapted to life in this year-round winter wonderland? From polar bears to penguins, this is a once-in-a-lifetime expedition.

January 17-19*

Codes: V1-17T, V1-18W, V1-19Th

*MLK Holiday on January 16 - Monday students can come on Tuesday.

Forever Evergreen

Ever wonder why some trees stay green all year? Explore the different types of evergreen trees and find out what makes them so special. Touch unusual tree specimens and taste a sample from an evergreen found in the park.

January 23-26

Codes: V1-23M, V1-24T, V1-25W, V1-26Th

Dingy Devices

Have you heard of Rube Goldberg or Goldberg devices? Come experiment with some unique devices, inventions, and machines. Help make an exceedingly complex machine that performs a quirky task.

January 30-February 2

Codes: V1-30M, V1-31T, V2-1W, V2-2Th

Tut's Tomb

Explore the world of ancient Egypt as we become junior archaeologists. Decipher hieroglyphics and attempt to solve the mystery of King Tutankhamun's death.

February 6-9

Codes: V2-6M, V2-7T, V2-8W, V2-9Th

What's the Matter?

Delve into matter in all three of its states. Have fun conducting hands-on activities to experiment with solids, liquids and gases.

February 13-16

Codes: V2-13M, V2-14T, V2-15W, V2-16Th

Local Motion

Explore how our local animals move. Observe and touch live animals in our nature center. Play games that get you moving.

February 21-23*

Codes: V2-21T, V2-22W, V2-23Th

*President's Day Holiday on February 20 - Monday students can come on Tuesday.

Mission to Mars

5, 4, 3, 2, 1...blast off! YSI is on a mission to explore our neighboring planet Mars. Come with us as we discover why it is called the Red Planet and whether or not it could have sustained life.

February 27 - March 2

Codes: V2-27M, V2-28T, V3-1W, V3-2Th

Down and Dirty

Uncover the mysterious world beneath your feet as you examine soil and its components. Build your own compost column and meet live decomposers that help create soil.

March 6-9

Codes: V3-6M, V3-7T, V3-8W, V3-9Th

Pitchy Playtime

What pitch do your hear? What is a pitch? Determine how sound is made and how it travels. Make and play sound machines.

March 13-16

Codes: V3-13M, V3-14T, V3-15W, V3-16Th

Sketching in the Sunlight

Use your artistic eye to take a closer look at the world around you. Discover how scientific illustrators transform what they see into works of art. Bask in the warm rays of the sun as you sketch nature.

March 20-23

Codes: V3-20M, V3-21T, V3-22W, V3-23Th

The Tortoise And The... Turtle!?!

What is the difference between a turtle and a tortoise? Find out as you observe and feed live reptiles. Meet our native tortoise and make your own turtle project to wear home!

March 27-30

Codes: V3-27M, V3-28T, V3-29W, V3-30Th

About YSI

YSI offers life, earth, physical and social science programs to schools and the community. Visit our website at www.youthscience.org or call 408.356.4945.

School and Group Programs – Pre-K to 12th

Hands-on interactive science programs complement the California State Science Standards to help classroom teachers meet state and local requirements. More than 35,000 school children participate each year.

After-School Science Classes – Pre-K to 4th

Offered weekly during the school year, these enriching classes incorporate math, science, art, music and language into small-group, hands-on activities.

Family Science Safaris – Children and Adults

A variety of indoor and outdoor programs for the entire family are presented by specialists in their fields, including night hikes, astronomy viewings, tide pool explorations and more!

Summer Science Day Camps – Pre-K to 6th

One hundred and sixty camps are offered each summer. Two thousand children have fun learning science in the park environment. Each small group of 12 to 14 children has one YSI instructor and one camp aide.

Training Future Teachers

After developing a passion for teaching science along with valuable teaching techniques, many of our instructors become school teachers who develop and present engaging science lessons.

Volunteers

Teenagers and adults are given the opportunity to assist with classes, camps, animal care and garden or native plant trail maintenance.

Registration information for **After-School Science Classes** is available at www.youthscience.org, by calling 408.356.4945 or using the form on page 7. Please give at least one day's notice when registering.

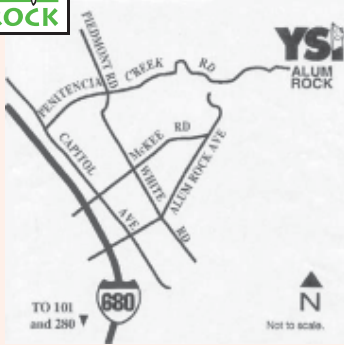
After-School Science Classes return to Sanborn and Alum Rock in the Spring.

YSI Nature Centers
www.youthscience.org



Alum Rock Center

408.258.4322
16260 Penitencia Creek Rd.
San José, CA 95127
Winter hours:
Tues. - Sat. 12 - 4:30 P.M.*
*except when programs in session



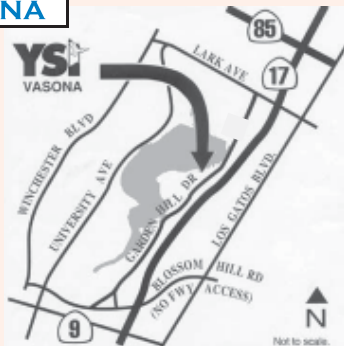
Sanborn Center

408.867.6940
16055 Sanborn Road
Saratoga, CA 95070
Tues. - Sat. 12 - 4:30 P.M.



Vasona Center

408.356.4945
296 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032
Mon. - Fri. 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Sat. - Sun. by appointment



100% of net proceeds benefit YSI

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