

STEAM Access Key

Use the key below to easily identify which aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics your BASE Camp will focus on.

STEAM at BASE Camp

STEAM Education is our hands-on, minds-on approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding camper curiosity, expression and critical thinking.

S SCIENCE

Science: Encourages curiosity, observation, and experimentation, fostering an understanding of the natural world.

T TECHNOLOGY

Technology: Involves the use of tools, software, and digital platforms to solve problems and enhance learning experiences.

E ENGINEERING

Engineering: Promotes design thinking and problem-solving through hands-on projects and the engineering design process.

A ART

Arts: Incorporates creativity and expression through various artistic mediums, fostering a holistic approach to learning.

M MATH

Mathematics: Provides the foundational skills for logical reasoning, quantitative analysis, and problem-solving.

****Following the STEAM graphics, please note the icons that represent District 97's Portrait dimensions to Oak Park out-of-school learning opportunities for youth.**

Biking Adventures (7th-8th)

1-week session Ready for a daily biking adventure? In this camp, each day features a new theme, route and unique stops around the Oak Park area. We'll learn and practice bike maintenance and biking safety as we hit destinations such as Thatcher Woods, local cafes and recreation areas. Sign up with a friend and get ready to make new friends - it's time for a summer riding adventure! *Required daily items include a road-ready bike **with gears** (no dirt bikes), spare inner tube, bike lock, helmet, snacks, water bottle and closed-toe shoes. Prompt arrival is a must, and bikers ride rain or shine (although not during thunderstorms). Bicycles should be inspected and tuned up at a local shop before the start of camp.*

Week 2, 3, 6 

Biking Adventures+Mobile Street Photography (7th-8th)

1-week session Ready for a daily biking adventure in addition to learning how to take great pictures? We've combined two of our most popular camps into one! We'll hit the road on our bikes, seeking out local destinations such as Thatcher Woods, cafes and recreation areas while also learning to take photos from your most accessible device - your cell phone! Experiment with what makes better selfies; and improve your photos with better lighting, composition, and focus. Explore the basics of photography from working with a smartphone camera to using creative apps to develop and enhance your images. Finish the week with a digital slideshow of your work and showcase your new skills gained as a visual storyteller! Sign up with a friend and get ready to make new friends - it's time for a summer riding and photography adventure! *Required daily items include a road-ready bike **with gears** (no dirt bikes), spare inner tube, bike lock, helmet, snacks, water bottle and closed-toe shoes. Prompt arrival is a must, and bikers ride rain or shine (although not during thunderstorms). Bicycles should be inspected and tuned up at a local shop before the start of camp.*

Week 4 

Biking Adventures+Scavenger (7th-8th)

1 week session Time to level up! Our Biking+ series brings together a love of biking and new fun challenges! In Biking+Scavenger, we'll use our daily rides to solve clues, find hidden items and complete daily challenges. Think outdoor escape room... but on bikes! We'll go up to 10 miles a day in and around Oak Park (and surrounding areas) so come ready to ride, and ready to find! *Required daily items include a road-ready bike **with gears** (no dirt bikes), spare inner tube, bike lock, helmet, snacks, water bottle and closed-toe shoes. Prompt arrival is a must, and bikers ride rain or shine (although not during thunderstorms). Bicycles should be inspected and tuned up at a local shop before the start of camp.*

Pre-Week June 9-13 and Week 1 


Biking Adventures+Trail Rides (7th-8th)

1-week session We're taking it up a notch in this Biking+ camp as well as increasing our daily miles (15+ miles a day!) as we seek out local trails. We'll hit destinations such as Thatcher Woods, Miller Meadow, Bezina Woods and other recreation areas. It's time for a summer trail riding adventure! As a prerequisite, bikers must have attended another biking adventure camp and be prepared to put in some longer miles. *Required daily items include a road-ready bike with gears (no dirt bikes), spare inner tube, bike lock, helmet, snacks, water bottle and closed-toe shoes. Prompt arrival is a must, and bikers ride rain or shine (although not during thunderstorms). Bicycles should be inspected and tuned up at a local shop before the start of camp.*

Pre-Week June 9-13, Week 5 

CTA: Chicago Through Adventures- FULL DAY

1-week session Discover little-known sights and new neighborhoods as you learn to navigate the city through public transit. In collaboration with other campers, you will help design a weeklong itinerary that will help you build confidence while learning how to safely ride CTA's trains and buses. Map and plan routes, complete group scavenger hunts, and show off your mad skills during a culminating journey with invited family. All campers will be provided with a Ventra card to use during camp. Most of this camp will be spent outdoors and walking, so please dress accordingly.

Pre-Week (June 10-14) 

CTA: Chicago Through Adventures+ Around the Neighborhood- FULL DAY

1-week session Campers will have the opportunity to investigate the history and culture of a Chicago neighborhood and then plan an itinerary for their fellow campers. We'll map and plan routes that will highlight culturally significant places and events; places in Ukrainian Village, Pilsen, Wicker Park, Old Town, Chinatown, and more! All campers will be provided with a Ventra card to use during camp. Most of this camp will be spent outdoors and walking, so please dress accordingly. *Content will be the same each session.*

Weeks 4 & 6 

CTA: Chicago Through Adventures+Transportation- FULL DAY

1-week session Part of our CTA+ series, this full day camp will incorporate not just CTA transportation, but buses, water taxis, Metra trains, and more! You will help design a weeklong itinerary that will help you build confidence in riding all forms of transportation throughout the city, all alongside other campers and knowledgeable staff. Camp fees include access to all transportation options during camp. Most of this camp will be spent outdoors and walking, so please dress accordingly. *Content will be the same each session.*

Week 3 

CTA: Chicago Through Adventures+Mobile Street Photography- FULL DAY

1-week session Sure, exploring Chicago via the CTA is fun, but now we'll also explore with our cameras! Campers will check out some amazing Chicago destinations, traveling by train, to photograph the sights, while also learning some photography basics including focus, lighting and composition. During the week, we'll create a digital slideshow to share our work, showcase our skills and highlight all our Chicago travels. Bring your cellphone (cameras) and we'll provide the Ventra cards. Most of this camp will be spent outdoors and walking, so please dress accordingly.

Week 1, 2 

CYC Sailing (5th-8th)- FULL DAY *SCHOLARSHIP ONLY*

1-week session Chicago Yacht Club Foundation is partnering up with BASE Camp this summer to offer this program to our campers receiving a scholarship. A day in Adventure Boating consists of several of the following fun activities: kayaking, stand-up paddle-boarding, sailing on our 23' Sonar Keelboats, and marine-based STEM education. This is a fantastic option for youth who want to have a great time on the water with friends! Camps take place in Chicago's Belmont Harbor. Limited space available and this camp is only for campers who receive a scholarship from OPEF.

Daily bus transportation to and from a Julian Middle School will be provided. In partnership with the Chicago Yacht Club Foundation.

Weeks 4, 5 

Dungeons and Dragons (7th/8th)* NEW

1-week session Calling all dragon masters! Campers will learn everything they need to know to get started playing D&D and will participate in several adventures over the week. Players will learn how to build characters and engage in a series of structured adventures designed to teach the core rules. Explore concepts from combat to social roleplaying. We'll finish the week with breaks from their main stories and experience shorter, more enclosed adventure "one-shots".

Content will be different each week.

Weeks 4, 6 

Frisbee Physics (7th-8th)

1-week session Learn STEAM concepts such as force, velocity, pitch, angle, gravitational pull, lift, drag, angle and buoyancy. Campers will predict the flight path of a frisbee and test their predictions. We will take our physics lesson to the field and work on playing Can Jam, Frisbee Golf and Ultimate Frisbee. **Note that this camp meets at Beye Elementary School.** *Dress in comfortable clothes, with closed-toe shoes.*

Week 2 

Great Lakes (7th-8th)*NEW - FULL DAY

1-week session Dive into preserving ecosystems, learn about invasive species, and become a conservation scientist. How will you help save the Great Lakes? This camp will explore local Illinois wetlands, water treatment, and the wonders of Lake Michigan, heading downtown via CTA for at least 2 full days of lakeside exploration.

Week 1 

Mural Art (7th-8th)

1-week session Ever wonder who makes the wall murals at your school? In this camp, it will be YOU! You will learn the basics of using spray paint and making graffiti art, learning styles and techniques that you'll apply to your masterpiece. Once you've got the basics down, you'll work collaboratively with other campers, to paint and install a large format mural at Julian Middle School. Julian students, stay tuned for ways to get involved in the mural design this spring!

Week 2 

Nursing Lab 1.0 (7th-8th)

1-week session Get those scrubs on because in this camp, you will be learning the ins and outs of being a real health care professional! BASE Camp is partnering with Concordia University's Division of Nursing to utilize their simulation lab where campers will engage in a simulated hospital and clinic while working with computerized mannequins to develop critical thinking and "treat" your simulated patients. Campers will learn hands-on, practical skills like infant/child CPR and first aid with the River Forest Fire Department to help prepare them for babysitting or maybe even a future job in healthcare! *This camp takes place at Concordia University. Note the increased cost of this camp due to increased materials fee.*

Week 2 

Nursing Lab 2.0 (7th-8th)* **NEW**

1-week session If you loved Concordia Nursing Lab last summer or you already signed up for 1.0, get excited for this extension camp. We'll learn to suture, use real medical equipment, and get ready for "surgery", while gaining more in depth knowledge of real health care professionals and emergency personnel. BASE Camp is partnering with Concordia University's Division of Nursing and the River Forest Fire Department to offer this highly specialized and intense camp. *Attendance in Nursing Lab 1.0 is a prerequisite. This camp takes place at Concordia University. Note the increased cost of this camp due to increased materials fee.*

Week 5 

Onshape/CAD (7th-8th)

1-week session If you can imagine it, you can build it in OnShape! Learn to create models of objects and buildings with this easy to use 3D computer modeling program used by architects and designers. You'll focus on creating a retail space or product of your own imagination. Start by drawing lines and shapes, then push and pull surfaces to turn them into 3D forms. Consider all the elements that make a building or object functional and distinctive, then bring it to life in three dimensions.

Week 5, 6 

Play With Your Food! Molecular Gastronomy (7th-8th)

1-week session Step into the spectacular world of molecular gastronomy. This hands-on cooking camp combines science, fun and delicious food! Campers learn the secrets behind linking physics and chemistry to transform the flavors and textures of food. We will explore innovative cooking techniques such as spherification, emulsification, gelification to create fun foods like fruit caviar and noodles, flavor bubbles and foam, and transparent ravioli. Come experiment and create your own molecular dishes that are full of flavor! We can accommodate food allergies and will provide an ingredient list ahead of time.

Week 1 

REACH Sailing (5th-8th)

1-week, full-day session Learn to sail on Lake Michigan and explore the science, technology, engineering and math that sailors use every day. We'll take a bus each morning to the Chicago Yacht Club. Using *REACH*, US Sailing's STEM education curriculum, answer questions like: How does this boat float? What does geometry have to do with sailing? Does the wind pull or push a sailboat? Half of your day will be spent inside the yacht club doing hands-on, sailing-related STEM activities, and the other half out on the lake on a J/22 sailboat with a US Sailing-certified instructor and five campers per boat. Campers will be grouped by grade, 5th/6th and 7th/8th. *Price includes lunch at the yacht club plus daily bus transportation to and from a D97 middle school. In partnership with the Chicago Yacht Club.*

PREWEEK- June 9-13 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM; departing from D97 middle school 

Short Order Chef (7th-8th)

1-week session Order up! This camp will introduce campers to the concepts of T.A.S.T.E and the "The Healthy Delicious Plate" from the instructor's book, "Norma Can COOK!" Campers will shop for their ingredients, learn how to read food labels and will cook every day to create a variety of quick delicious healthy meals and snacks. All meals can be made vegetarian and for campers with food allergies.

Week 3 

SNL Sketch (7th-8th) *NEW

1-week session Coming to you live, it's Saturday Night! Join us for this new camp, where campers will improv and sketch-comedy their way through the content creation process. In just a week, campers will learn how to write, shoot, and direct their own unique content, all in the style of their favorite SNL characters. Campers will work in rotation on writing and acting; learning essential skills such as basic screenwriting structure, blocking and stage acting. It's bound to be a good time! *Content is the same each session.*

Week 4, 5 

Soaps, Balms and Bath Bombs (oh my!) (7th-8th)

1-week session We're excited about this partnership camp with Soapy Roads, a local, all-natural, organic, sustainable soap maker! Campers will create soaps, lip balms, bath bombs, all-natural make-up and more! Please note that the fees for this camp are slightly higher to account for increased materials costs.

Week 3 

VEX Robotics- Advanced (7th-8th)

1-week session This camp is for individuals who already have experience with V5 VEX Robotics and who want to put in some intensive work this summer. This advanced section is meant to help campers excel in design, building and competing. If you have attended a VEX camp in the past, or you are currently in house or competitive robotics leagues, this is the camp for you! *Please note that this camp meets at Julian Middle School, but all interested campers from any school are encouraged to attend.*

Two week session, Pre-Week and Week 1; June 9-20, no camp June 19th 

Zines (7th-8th)* NEW

1-week session Zines are self-published magazines full of things the author is passionate about– the sky's the limit to what we can create! In this camp, we will look at a handful of zines and study a bit of the history of zines. Using a variety of creative prompts, campers will write, draw, paint, use textiles and found items to create their own zine. Join us in the creative process! *Content is the same each session.*

Weeks 1, 2 
