



Department of Entomology
Michigan State University

MSU BUG HOUSE/INSECT WORLD

SCIENCE CAMP

July 15-18, 2012

The Bug House is sponsored by the Department of Entomology. It is the flagship of all Entomology Outreach Programs. From this base, we have evolved into educational programs, not only here on campus with several thousand visiting the Bug House each year, but through outside activities such as various science fairs, classroom visits throughout the community and various 4-H programs.

AUDIENCE: These programs are available for audiences from pre-school to senior citizens. Programs are one hour in length and cover a variety of topics from “What is a bug” to metamorphosis and camouflage. Groups have the option of choosing their topic. In 2012 we hosted over 6,000 visitors for one of these one hour programs. Camp also draws from previous visitors to the Bug House who have become intrigued with bugs. It piques the interest to go further and serves as a natural audience for camp.

PROGRAM FUNDING: The Bug House charges a \$50.00 fee to cover costs of 2 presenters and food and maintenance of our live cultures. Camp fees are \$325 for the regular program and \$350 for our advanced program. These fees cover the cost of all supplies and personnel involved in the program.

INSECT WORLD SCIENCE CAMP

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: As a result of this program, visitors and campers will walk away with:

- An appreciation for insects and their value
- Career choices at MSU
- Become more comfortable in a dorm setting
- Appreciate the value of higher education

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: This camp was designed for kids who have a natural curiosity about bugs and the world around them. Camp is held here on campus to take advantage of the many resources that this campus has to offer, such as 4-H Children’s Garden, Baker Wood Lot, the Red Cedar, all of which are great areas for observing and collecting insects. Mornings are spent out in the field collecting. Most kids find this to be the most fun and informational time. In the afternoon, campers go to the lab to use the microscopes and also

to pin the catch of the day. For those who have strong feelings about pinning, we use photography as another way to view insects. Campers spend a lot of time, both in the lab and out in the field, observing insect behavior. This teaches a great deal about predators/prey, camouflage and goodbugs/bad bugs. .

PROGRAM IMPACTS:

The impact of the program has been significant. Each year, we have a 60-70% return rate. Some campers have attended up to 8 years. Because of this interest, we initiated an advanced program, then the junior counselor program for 13 year olds and above returnees and then our most advanced program which puts campers in the labs of various faculty. Over the course of 4 days, they will spend time in 5 labs learning what faculty are doing and how they go about doing it. Our intention is to make them aware of the significance of insects as they relate to some of the problems we currently face, such as Emerald Ash Bore, Mosquito diseases and crop problems.

Each year an evaluation is filled out by all campers. Over the year’s, these evaluations have been used to up-date and refine the learning experience. We have gotten many good suggestions from both campers and their parents. Where possible, we try to incorporate these suggestions in anticipation of a better experience for our campers. We have found that the best experience we can give these kids is the knowledge that college can be a wonderful experience where all things are possible if you are willing to put in the time and effort.

This year over half of our group were return campers, some for more than 2 years. 85% of campers strongly agree they will attend college and 75% strongly agree to “accepting people who are different than me” Every effort is given to our campers to become more aware of the animal world and how it impacts our everyday lives.

For more information, please visit www.bughouse.msu.edu

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