

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

2025

KIDS' College

An **Adventure** in
LEARNING for
5th & 6th graders!

APRIL 11, 2025
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.



Learn more!

UW
GRADUATE &
EXTENDED LEARNING

Kids' College offers students hands-on learning and activities in an environment that is supportive, enriching and entertaining! Youth work alongside UW-La Crosse faculty and experts in various fields who invite experimentation, investigation and involvement.

Co-sponsored by
Mississippi Valley Gifted & Talented Network

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

A Day in the Life

In this session, you'll tour the UWL campus and experience what life at college might be like! Everything from where you'd sleep, eat, study, take a class, watch athletic games and much more!

–UWL Vanguard

American Sign Language & the Deaf Community

Join this session for an opportunity to learn some basics about American Sign Language (ASL) and the Deaf community.

–Jodie Novak, M.A., Educational Studies, UW-La Crosse

Bang On the Drums All Day

The Drumline is the heartbeat of every marching band! Learn how to create rhythms and sounds with buckets and other percussion instruments in this hands-on session!

–Tammy Fisher, Ph.D., Music, UW-La Crosse

Code Your Future: Intro to Coding

The CODERS CS Lab workshop is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of computer science and problem-solving.

The workshop aims to provide a fun and introduction to the field of coding and computer science. –UWL CODERS Club

Drawing Mythological Figures

This session introduces the work of Ojibwe artist, Rabbett Before Horses Stickland, and the cultural hero from his dreams and in his paintings named, "Nanabozhoo." Participants will be guided through a reflective drawing process on a mythological figure of personal or cultural significance.

–Deborah-Eve Lombard, M.A., B.F.A., Art, UW-La Crosse

–Lisa Lenarz, M.F.A., Art, UW-La Crosse

Experience the EZONE

Waiver required for participation

Into gaming? If so, this session is for you! Come experience the EZONE Esports & Gaming space within the Recreational Eagle Center. Within the space, you have the opportunity to use one of our 24 high performance gaming PCs, play your favorite console game or try out the Virtual Reality (VR) devices. –UWL EZONE Staff

History Beneath Your Feet

Discover how archaeologists piece together what life was like in the Coulee Region in the distant past. Join us as we "dig in" to examine artifacts recovered from local excavations to determine how pre-European people used the area's natural resources for thousands of years before cars, grocery stores, or computers were invented!

–Jean Dowiasch, B.S., Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center, UW-La Crosse

How to Change the World: Civics & Critical Thinking

Explore the basic concepts of civics through interactive activities that highlight the connection and importance of critical thinking in civil discourse. Participants will sharpen their critical thinking skills, ask big questions, and discover how they can make a difference in their communities.

–Sam Scinta, J.D., Political Science & Public Administration, UW-La Crosse

Illustrating Insects

Learn to draw insects with enthusiasm and accuracy! Students will observe pinned insects through a microscope and draw what they see.

–Ericka Bjorngaard, Graduate Student, UW-La Crosse

Language Bridges: Connecting Kids to Culture

In this workshop, volunteer World Language Education students who are training to be K-12 Spanish or French teachers will lead kids in a discussion of the importance of learning other languages and an engaging hands-on task (such as creating a passport, papel picado, etc.).

–Kimberly Morris, Global Cultures & Languages, UW-La Crosse

Managing the Land Around Us

How did the Mississippi River form the valley we live in and how do we protect our cities from flooding? Join us as we dig in and manipulate sand and water moving through stream models to explore how rivers transform the land! Develop creative solutions for managing this critical natural resource.

–Colin Belby, Ph.D., Geography & Earth Science, UW-La Crosse

–Jeffrey Kueny, M.S., Geography & Earth Science, UW-La Crosse

Parlez français! Exploring French and French-Speaking Cultures

Bonjour! In this introduction to French students will learn some simple words and phrases to say hello, introduce themselves, and learn fun facts about French-speaking countries and cultures all over the world.

–Anna Keefe, Global Cultures & Languages, UW-La Crosse

Rec Center: Climbing Wall

Waiver required for participation

Learn rope belaying and climbing procedures, auto-belay use, and proper climbing and bouldering etiquette. Dress for physical activity.

–Jacob Sciammas, Recreational Eagle Center, UW-La Crosse

Science For a Changing World

Discover how U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Science Center scientists use STEM skills and cutting-edge technology to tackle real-world challenges and make a positive impact in our community.

–Randy Hines & Stephen Spear, USGS Upper Midwest Science Center

The Movement of the Future

Explore the advanced technology and equipment that allows for cutting-edge research in areas such as motion analysis, biomechanics, and rehabilitation.

–Thomas Kerozek, Ph.D., Physical Therapy, UW-La Crosse

–Hanni Cowley, D.P.T., Physical Therapy, UW-La Crosse

The Power of Many: Discovering Multicultural College Life

Learn how Multicultural organizations on campus help build a supportive community and how you can get involved to make the most of your college experience.

–Astrid Lorena Ochoa Campo, Ph.D., Global Cultures & Languages, UW-La Crosse

–Victoria Calmes, Ph.D., Global Cultures & Languages, UW-La Crosse

The Stars Above You

This program is a mental journey from the Earth to the far reaches of the universe. It briefly describes the Moon and each of the planets. It also looks at the Sun as a star, how stars are born, live out their lives and die as a white dwarf, neutron star, or black hole. Finally, it looks at cosmology and how it was learned that the universe is expanding.

–Bob Allen, M.A., Planetarium, UW-La Crosse

You Low Down Dirty Varmint: A Stage Combat Primer

Learn how to hit, hair-pull, and kick your friends without anyone getting hurt! We will learn some basic stage combat moves that actors use to create fight scenes safely (while learning how to work together to WOW others).

–Pete Rydberg, Ph.D., Visual & Performing Arts, UW-La Crosse

Your Key to Knowledge: Navigating College Libraries

Visit the Murphy Library and be introduced to the resources and services university libraries offer to support college students. Students will complete an activity where they follow the "life" of an idea throughout the research process, and they will interact with different kinds of information that are stored in and accessed through academic libraries.

–Kendall Morgan, M.L.I.S., Murphy Library, UW-La Crosse

An Adventure in Learning
for 5th & 6th Graders

April 11, 2025
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.



8:30–9:15 a.m.

Registration, Welcome & Icebreaker

9:30–10:30 a.m.

SESSION 1

- A Day in the Life
- American Sign Language & the Deaf Community
- Bang On the Drums All Day
- Drawing Mythological Figures
- Experience the EZONE**
- History Beneath Your Feet
- How to Change the World: Civics & Critical Thinking
- Science For a Changing World
- The Movement of the Future
- The Power of Many: Discovering Multicultural College Life
- The Stars Above You
- You Low Down Dirty Varmint: A Stage Combat Primer
- Your Key to Knowledge: Navigating College Libraries

10:50–11:50 a.m.

SESSION 2

- American Sign Language & The Deaf Community
- Bang On the Drums All Day
- Code Your Future: Intro to Coding
- Drawing Mythological Figures
- History Beneath Your Feet
- How to Change the World: Civics & Critical Thinking
- Illustrating Insects
- Language Bridges: Connecting Kids to Cultures
- Rec Center: Climbing Wall*
- Science For a Changing World
- The Movement of the Future
- The Stars Above You
- You Low Down Dirty Varmint: A Stage Combat Primer
- Your Key to Knowledge: Navigating College Libraries

Registration:
\$20/student

11:50 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

LUNCH

Bring your own sack lunch & beverage/water bottle

12:40–1:40 p.m.

SESSION 3

- A Day in the Life
- American Sign Language & The Deaf Community
- Code Your Future: Intro to Coding
- Drawing Mythological Figures
- History Beneath Your Feet
- How to Change the World: Civics & Critical Thinking
- Managing the Land Around Us
- Parlez français! Exploring French and French-Speaking Cultures
- Rec Center: Climbing Wall*
- Science For a Changing World
- The Movement of the Future
- You Low Down Dirty Varmint: A Stage Combat Primer
- Your Key to Knowledge: Navigating College Libraries

2 p.m.

DISMISSAL

*Students participating in **UWL Climbing Wall** must complete the [Climbing Wall Waiver](#).

Participants in **Experience the EZONE! session must complete the [EZONE Participant Agreement](#).

Forms and additional information are available at uwlax.edu/gel/ypc/kids-college.

To serve the most participants, students may participate in **either** the **UWL Climbing Wall** **or** **Experience the EZONE!**

Privacy Policy: Registration implies permission for photos and publicity unless Graduate & Extended Learning is notified in writing prior to the program. Attendees must receive approval from their school's gifted and talented coordinator prior to registering. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cancellation Policy: Substitutions are welcome. No refunds for cancellation. Substitutions must be submitted in writing to ex@uwlax.edu prior to the event.