



2017 ACES Family Academies Educational Sessions

ACES Family Academies offer a variety of activities that give kids a glimpse into a college classroom setting. Participating departments from the College of ACES facilitate the classes.

The list of classes and their descriptions are grouped by department. During registration, you will rank the top five preferred classes (using the three-digit class code). While we make every effort to enroll families in students' preferred classes, classes have maximum capacities and requirements that will have to be considered. Enrollment in specific classes cannot be guaranteed, and alternative classes will be assigned if all of your student's preferred classes are full by the time you register.

Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis by family, not by the individual student. Families are expected to attend classes as a family unit. We will notify you of your schedule before prior to attending ACES Family Academies.

Class Codes:

201-202	Department of Agricultural and Consumer Sciences
301-306	Department of Animal Sciences
401	Agricultural Education Program
501-502	Department of Crop Sciences
601-602	Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
701	Department of Human and Community Development
801-803	Department of Natural Resources
901-905	University of Illinois Extension

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Tips for Selecting Classes

Remember that the College of ACES is educationally diverse; a variety of different kinds of classes are offered during ACES Family Academies. Students who choose a diverse set of preferred classes have a better chance of getting into the classes they desire and will get a broader outlook on the possibilities in ACES for their future.

Classes marked with an asterisk (*) will be offered during two time slots.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics

#201 Maybe Money Can Grow (Not on Trees)

Have you ever heard that “a penny saved is a dollar earned”? Come learn how true this can be, and create a piggybank to help you save your pennies!

#202 Using Economics to Protect the Environment

This hands-on session will show how economics can protect populations of (candy) fish for people to fish for in the future. You'll also see how economics can solve problems as a math company's “pollution” makes it hard for another company to produce its paper airplanes and fortune tellers.

Department of Animal Sciences

#301 Magical Milk Lab *

Learn about the different forms, functions, and chemical processes that milk goes through to make the products we consume and enjoy. Make your own ice cream and eat it during class!

#302 Where's the Beef?: Getting to Know Cows Inside and Out *

Join us at the U of I Beef Farm and get to know our cows up close and personal. Not only will you get to take a tour, but you will also get to stick your arm into a cow and learn all about beef cattle nutrition.

#303 Man's Best Friend *

Come learn all about man's best friend. You will spend time learning about dog behavior, training tips, and humane education.

#304 Of Pigs and People *

See what your brain has in common with the brain of a favorite farm animal. Test your knowledge by examining real piglet brains, and watch a demonstration of how pigs are used to study neurosciences.

#305 The Secrets of Sausage *

Explore the yummy herbs and spices that make sausage so delicious. You will make your own secret recipe and compete against the class to determine who is the best sausage maker.

#306 Behind the Scenes in Pet Food

Join us for a look into what we feed our pets. Learn about what to buy and how to buy your pet food. We will also make our very own dog treats!

Agricultural Education Program

#401 Living the Dream *

What puts a smile on your face? What makes you happy? What's your dream? Join us and explore how your Dreams can help you reach your potential.

Department of Crop Sciences

#501 Paper Airplanes and Drones in Ag *

Small unmanned aerial vehicles (sUAV's) may change the way farmers monitor their crops. Learn about ACES research using UAVs for monitoring crops, and get up close with several UAVs. Turn a paper airplane into a tiny smartphone-controlled UAV.

#502 Healthy Soils C.S.I. Challenge *

C.S.I. Soil Sleuths will investigate the life and health of soils through assessment tests on a soil sample. Use your results to design and build a 1:64 scale no-till planter. Teams will test their devices attached to a hexbug platform on a tabletop soil test site to measure devices' effectiveness.

Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

#601 Your Nose Talks to Your Tongue (and They Are Not the Same)

This hands-on (or "tongue-on") presentation will introduce the field of flavor perception. Demonstrations and tasting activities will not only be fun to do but will increase awareness of how we all live in our own sensory worlds.

#602 Food Challenge *

Are you up to the challenge? Work in teams using "mystery ingredients" to develop the most delicious and nutritious dish—in 30 minutes! Learn about food nutrition, safety, and preparation as you create your edible masterpiece. Finish by presenting your dish to a panel of judges who will determine the winner!

Department of Human and Community Development

#701 From Virtual Reality to Chutes and Ladders: Video Games vs. Board Games—How We Learn Through Play

Fun for gaming novices and experts alike! Play video games and board games while being tested for skills and learning. We'll compare and discuss advantages of both types of games for cognitive learning, motor skills, social skills, and more.

Department of Natural Resources

#801 "Bird's the Word": Exploring Avian Ecology and Conservation

Learn about the natural history of birds and research techniques used to protect wild bird populations in this workshop set outside! Get an up-close-and-personal look at wild birds with mist netting and banding demonstrations.

#802 Skulls to Scat: Getting Familiar with Illinois Mammals *

Immerse yourself in learning about Illinois mammals. From skulls to scat (animal poop), participants will get a hands-on understanding of habitat, diet, and physical structure of many of Illinois' most common mammals.

#803 Feed the Bees *

Did you know that the U of I Pollinarium is the country's first free-standing science center devoted to flowering plants and their pollinators? Help our pollinators! Make a native-bee house, then suit up and look inside a honey bee hive.

University of Illinois Extension

#901 Fun with LEGO Mindstorms Robots! *

Learn how to program LEGO Mindstorms robots and work with them to complete different challenges. Program your robot to pick up various objects and avoid obstacles in its path. No previous experience is necessary.

#902 Build a Better Brain *

Keeping your brain healthy across the lifespan is important! Experience interactive information on contributors to brain health and do fun, engaging brain health activities.

#903 Being Mindful in a Busy World for Kids *

Mindfulness is simply noticing what is happening right now. Learn ways to improve your focus, increase your awareness, and slow down and enjoy life!

#904 Youth Fighting Poverty Through Hunger Ambassadors *

Looking for a way to make a difference? Join us to look at how *you* can help those who live in poverty. No child should be hungry – ever!

#905 Family Fishing: More than Dinner

Spending time together in nature fishing is a great way to keep connected as a family and to get connected to nature. Experience the benefits of fishing!