The focus of Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory’s camp is astronomy and space science. Campers learn how scientists discover the secrets of the universe, from exotic black holes to the nature of light. During the week, campers are engaged in exciting hands-on educational science activities which may include launching rockets, working with and building electronics, making model comets, and working with telescopes. The camp curriculum has been created by an expert team of astronomy professors, space scientists, and area science teachers.

The Dyer Observers Space Science Camp supports students who are serious about exploring the worlds of science, math, and technology, and opens up their minds to future career possibilities in these fields. Campers are inspired by interacting with astronomers who are respected researchers and seasoned instructors. Participation in group activities builds self-confidence, problem-solving ability, and social skills.

Sample past activities:

- Interact with cutting-edge research astronomers
- Learn how telescopes work, and build your own
- Safely view the dynamic surface of the Sun through a solar telescope and attend a nighttime telescope viewing
- Journey to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL for a day-long adventure
- Learn about basic electronics, and use the knowledge to build working projects
- Construct a functioning model Hubble Space Telescope
- Make your own realistic models of comets, and learn how craters are formed
- Design and launch bottle rockets as an introduction to rocketry

2018 CAMP DATES:

**July 16-20**  9am-3pm for rising 5th and 6th graders

**July 23-27**  9am-3pm for rising 7th and 8th graders

The field trip day will be longer. Campers and their parents will be invited one evening between July 16-27 for a telescope viewing program.

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OUR STAFF: Vanderbilt astronomy and physics professors and graduate students, high school science teachers, student volunteer counselors, and Observatory staff.

COST: $400 per camper. Please make checks payable to Vanderbilt University. Merit scholarships are not awarded, but financial aid is available to those students who demonstrate financial need. Please email Dyer Observatory’s Camp Director, Dr. Billy Teets, at william.k.teets@vanderbilt.edu for more information.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications may be picked up at the Dyer Observatory or downloaded from our website: https://dyer.vanderbilt.edu/entertainment/summer-camps/ You may also check to see if the camps are still accepting applications at this website.

LOCATION: Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory, 1000 Oman Drive, Brentwood TN. The Observatory is located off of Granny White Pike, approximately 1/3 mile north of Old Hickory Blvd. Note: we are NOT on the main Vanderbilt campus.

SNACKS & LUNCH: Snacks and drinks are provided. Campers should pack their own lunch with a drink.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF DETAILS: Registration day (Monday) please arrive between 8 and 8:45 AM. Field trip day (Wednesday) hours will be announced. Other days, campers should arrive daily between 8:30 – 9:00 AM and be picked at 3:00 PM daily.

QUESTIONS: For more information, please call 615-373-4897 or email Dyer Observatory’s Camp Director, Dr. Billy Teets, at william.k.teets@vanderbilt.edu. Fax: 615-371-3904.