

Northwestern Michigan College • College for Kids Program Overview for Potential Instructors



College for Kids

NMC | Find it here.

Welcome to College for Kids

Thank you for your interest in teaching with NMC's College for Kids. If you are an imaginative, flexible person with good teaching skills and a love for kids, you may find a good fit in this vital summer experience. Here is the basic program and process information you need.



College for Kids Defined

Extended Educational Services (EES) of NMC has hosted a summer enrichment experience for students from ages 3-17 for over 30 years. Each summer, approximately 160 classes are offered with enrollment of over 1800 students. The program covers an 8-week period typically beginning the 3rd week of June and running through the 2nd or 3rd week of August. The purpose is to engage kids in enriched learning activities over a broad range of content areas. The result—happy kids, parents, and teachers.

Getting Started

- Read this overview and peruse a previous College for Kids catalog.
- Brainstorm ideas for a class(es)—topic, age, group, activities.
- Email lmatchett@nmc.edu describing your interests, ideas and contact info (include a resume.)
- Our staff will follow-up with a call and interview.
- If your course idea is selected, you will be asked to complete a course proposal form for each class.

Formats

Most sessions are taught in one-week formats although there are exceptions. The age and attention span of targeted learners and the content are primary factors in determining the number of hours. A one-week course typically runs 4-5 consecutive mornings or afternoons, 2-3 1/2 hours a day. These short-term options are popular because they fit into family schedules and are affordable. It is possible to teach similar content to two different age groups or repeat a likely-to-be-popular course in two different time slots. Instructors usually teach 1-3 classes selecting preferred weeks.

Locations

Every attempt is made to match the site needs of your course with appropriate space. Keep in mind that this is a college campus—there are few small chairs or tables and rooms are primarily designed for adults in a sitting position. With a little creativity most spaces can be turned into kid-appropriate learning environments. The NMC campus has numerous areas of outdoor space—walkways, grassy areas, parking lots, woods, and an impressive selection of trees. We also have areas of poison ivy! You can indicate specific needs (i.e. access to water, outdoor areas without poison ivy) in the course proposal.



Course Ideas

You create the content for a class—although it's fine to borrow ideas. For inspiration, begin by reviewing a previous College for Kids schedule. **NOTE:** Don't assume that every course from a previous year will have an instructor for this year. A staff person can guide you to needed areas. Consider your strengths and skills—what content inspires you and can be taught in a hands-on, fun format. If you are currently teaching, what projects have been especially engaging leaving you and the kids wanting more time to explore the topic. Broad areas include the sciences, art, drama, music, literature, crafts, math, languages, technology, occupational interests, adventure, sports, and integrated learning environments that combine several of these.

The Course Proposal

You will complete a course proposal form for each course idea. This helpful tool gets you thinking through the details of your course. For planning purposes, it's useful to begin with the learning objectives, followed by the course content as you see it spread over each session. Once you have thought through the content and activities for each day the description comes to life in more compelling language. You are asked to create a syllabus at least 2 weeks prior to class. These are designed for the child or parent and a copy comes to the EES office for easy reference during registration.



Kids on Campus Week

One week (usually late July) is designed to specifically invite children to spend full days on campus. Classes are scheduled for each age group during morning and afternoon sessions with a supervised lunch break. Most sessions are held in one building and extra staffing is provided for assisting kids in getting to and from classes. Instructors can teach morning, afternoon, or both. It's a popular and fun week for kids and instructors. You can indicate on your course proposal if you would like to teach this week.

Do I actually get paid to do something this fun?

Yes! In general, an instructor contract is based on the number of contact hours taught and number of students enrolled. The course enrollment "go" number is 6 although teachers are paid for at least 8 students. The cost of a course is a combination of tuition (based on contact hours), materials fees (determined at the time of set-up), and a small processing fee. Most courses reach more than minimum numbers but some will unfortunately cancel. During your interview, the specifics will be covered.

Need more information?

If you want to talk through a course idea or get more information, please talk with Laura Matchett, Bill Queen or Kristy Jackson, Program Coordinators. Each can be reached at the Extended Education office located in the north wing of the NMC University Center (off Cass Road, between 14th Street and S. Airport Road).

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