



Department of Entomology
Michigan State University

MSU BUG HOUSE/INSECT WORLD

SCIENCE CAMP

July 17-20, 2011

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 2011 we hosted 7,000 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.

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

- An appreciation for insects and their value
- Know the difference between predators and Prey
- Less fear of insects in general
- What is an entomologist's Possible career choices

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The program was designed for anyone with a natural curiosity about bugs. By having the option of holding live bugs, visitors become more comfortable with insects in general and also learn a great deal about habitats and value of insects to our society. Due to these types of programs, we have been able to branch out into doing summer camps for 6-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds on a half day basis. We also sponsor the Insect World Science Camp which is a residential camp held each July here on campus. These camps provide a more in depth study of bugs and give campers a

chance to actually catch bugs, do some observation exercises and also make a collection to take home with them. Time is spent in the labs using microscopes to view the daily catch. MSU faculty, graduate students and staff volunteer their time to assist in giving campers a valuable educational experience.

PROGRAM IMPACTS:

Since the Bug House opened, more than 70,000 visitors have spent time on the MSU campus. Our goal has always been to create an interest in MSU and to make visitors aware of the important role bugs play in our environment. To that end, we have worked with elementary teachers in assisting them to work with insects in their classrooms. Many classes attend the Bug House after two weeks in their classroom studying insects. We have a working bee hive which is a great teaching tool for social insects as bees are. You will also find a butterfly cage flying Michigan butterflies. There are displays of tropical butterflies which gives you the opportunity to compare and contrast Michigan vs. the tropics.

Teachers are asked to fill out an evaluation following their trip. We receive many comments and letters from visitors thanking us for giving them the opportunity to hold Theresa, our 16 year old Tarantula. She is actually the star of the Bug House. Visitors also enjoy handling the walking sticks, hissing cockroaches, millipedes, and beetles.

Camp provides a more in-depth knowledge of insects by observation, programs, and spending time out in the field collecting and using the lab facilities to identify and make a personal collection to take home. Undergraduate and graduate students work as counselors.

This year over half of our group were return campers, some for more than 2 years. 80% of campers strongly agree they will attend college and 65% 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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