



## **Class Proposal Suggestions**

The PAWS University committee has created this document to help you write your class proposal. Below are ideas, tips, examples of class titles and advertisements, and other helpful information you can use. Click on a link in the table of contents to navigate the document or simply scroll through the pages to find the information you seek. If you have additional questions, please contact [paws@unk.edu](mailto:paws@unk.edu).

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## General Ideas & Suggestions

What are you interested in? What are you passionate about? What is something that you know a lot about and enjoy sharing with others? We want you to teach a class that *you want* to teach. If you're stuck, look at other programs being held at significant museums, organizations, etc. in other cities. Check out what these other educational summer programs are offering. Each class needs to be *engaging* and *educational*!

### Engaging and Educational

Create a class that students are going to want to attend and parents are going to *want* to send their kids to. We suggest you think about (or research) what a certain age group is interested in and then create a learning opportunity around that interest. A few examples would be:

Engaging	Educational
Current Kindergartners & 1st graders like to watch "Wild Kratts"	Grade 1-2 PAWS U class that studies a different animal each day, learning about their special characteristics. Students then "become" that animal through various activities (e.g. STEM activity to build the longest elephant trunk; color blending to camouflage their gecko skin).
Current 2nd & 3rd graders like reading the book series <i>I Survived</i>	Grade 3-4 PAWS U class that incorporates historical events and the best way to survive those events using science, outdoor survival techniques, or other information.
Current 4th & 5th graders love all things YouTube	Grade 5-6 PAWS U class that discusses vlogging, internet safety, video technology, and marketing a YouTube channel. Throughout the week students create their own "YouTube channel" and a marketing plan.

Here are a few areas of interest we have recently collected from kids and parents. Add the education piece to form a class proposal!

- Food: Cooking competitions; Candy making; Healthy living & eating
- Sports: the history; numbers; plays; sports + technology; intro to sports medicine
- History: presidents; states; dinosaurs; Elvis and retro music
- Mythology
- Outdoor/survival skills
- Inventing
- Mystery solving
- Gardening/canning
- Science: slime, rocks, magnets, Effects of temperature
- Fantasy: magic, dragons
- Musicals/theater
- Television shows: Expedition Unknown, Who Was?, Mythbusters
- Art: Zen Tangle/marker art, origami, seasonal crafts

## Class Titles and Advertisements

Here a few class titles and advertisements that the PAWS University committee view as exemplary. They grabbed students' and parents' attention by emphasized both the engaging and educational aspects of the class.



[Slime Science](#) - Journey through science with slime! Each day will feature a different slime that you will use as a model to explore the world around us. Crunchy slime and the rock cycle. Corn starch slime and glacier Olympics. Join us and become a master in slime science!



[Real Art in the Real World](#) - Did you know that art is everywhere you look? Clothes. Signs. Cereal Boxes. Art is everywhere! Forget the box of crayons. In this class you will use 2D and 3D design, as well as computers, to create logos, packaging, and t-shirts. Be a Real Artist!



[Wild Art](#) - Create art inspired by the wild while finding amazing answers to questions about wild life! Create a giraffe sculpture and learn how they grew to be so tall and what sounds they make. Paint a mixed media seahorse and learn about how and why they swim the way they do. Spend a week in the wild and create amazing works of wild art!



[Computer Programming 101](#) - Create your very own creative story...with computer programming! Customize your characters, create a magic world, and share your creativity with others through specialized computer software. Your imagination will come to life as you create vivid and captivating stories while learning basic computer programming!

## Class Title Suggestions

Think of your title as your first chance to hook students and parents. It should convey the purpose of the class while also establishing interest level. You'll want to keep your title somewhere between two and six words long. Keep it short, but grab their attention.

Okay Title	Better Title	What makes it better?
Cooking Up Creations	Kitchen Concoctions	More concise, captures attention (alliteration), uses kid-friendly language, sounds interesting

Adventures in Outer Space	Space Quest	More concise, sounds more exciting & action packed
STEM Challenges	Brilliant Builders	Uses kid-friendly language, captures attention (alliteration), action-oriented

## Class Advertisement Suggestions

The advertisement is what will “sell” your class. Therefore, both the parents and the kids need to be targeted. Look for the following three things in your advertisement. In short, develop an advertisement that makes your class sound *fun*, *interactive*, and *educational*.

Kid Friendly	Parent Attention	Language Usage
Advertisements are written for the students. Peak their interest, use language they will understand, and help them to picture themselves in your class. Capture their attention with words that are familiar and appealing.	Make sure the educational element comes through in your advertisement. Yes, we want students to have fun, but we also want to ensure that they are <i>learning</i> something in this class.	Include action verbs in your advertisement. You do not need to describe your entire lesson outline, but provide enough interest/detail to hook parents and students. Examples of words to use: Create, Write, Think, Explore, Listen, Read, Observe, Discover, Plan, Build, Launch

### Grades 1-2 Example

Explore how science makes our food delicious! Use common recipes, ingredients, and kitchen tools to measure, mix, cook, and bake. Taste-test your experiments and become a top chef! Learn the science behind your food!

### Grades 3-4 Example

Challenge your brain and test your skills in Lego Brain Quest! Explore problems using Legos as the solution. Change your brain by creating innovative strategies that can be applied in and out of the classroom. This is an ideal workshop for Lego enthusiasts!

### Grades 5-6 Example

Put your creativity and engineering abilities to the test as you build your very own hot air balloon and mouse trap race car. Collect data, make modifications, and challenge your classmates. How high and how fast can you go?

## Campus Connection

A campus connection can be anything/anyone on the UNK campus that/who will enrich your class. If your class is selected, the PAWS U Committee will help to set up the connection. The goal of the campus connection is to:

1. Add to the engagement and/or education of your class
2. Help students become more familiar with and comfortable on UNK's campus
3. Highlight possible careers/career fields for students

## Past Examples of Campus Connections

Activity	Purpose
Walked around campus with iPads	To take pictures of buildings so they could reconstruct them in class
Visit from a math professor	To learn about KenKen problem solving strategies
Taught soccer drills by UNK soccer players	To learn about the role soccer plays in the Spanish culture
Visited the UNK Cyber Systems Department	To tour the department and learn about all the careers available in the computer science field
Explored the greenhouse on campus	To take photos of the flower petals they saw and then make those petals out of origami paper
Toured the backstage areas with the UNK Theater Department	To learn about what it takes to put on a show and to work in theater
Visited the G.W. Frank House	To learn about museum work and local history while touring the museum
Hosted Crazy Meek the Frontiersman	To learn about life on the frontier
Viewed experiments by a UNK Chemistry professor	To learn about various aspects of science and chemistry
Visited various bridges on campus	To note the different structures, supports, and kinds of bridges employed. They then used this knowledge to construct their own/reconstruct these creations
Listened to a reading in the Calvin T. Ryan Library	To be immersed in the campus library and to hear a story related to that day's activity

## Other Ideas for Campus Connections

Invite a member of a specific department to your class to enhance a particular activity, share possible career options, or something else the faculty member suggests. Ideas for departments to reach out to:

- English
- Art
- Biology
- Cyber Systems
- Marketing
- Aviation
- ANY [academic department](#) on campus!

Visit other [key locations on campus](#), such as:

- Planetarium
- Bruner Hall pendulum
- New STEM building
- Bell tower
- Gym
- Amphitheater
- Sculptures
- Radio Station
- Foster Field
- Aquaponics system
- Dorm rooms
- Dam
- Student Union

Think beyond academic departments, such as:

- Campus Police
- UNK Dining Services
- UNK Athletics
- Student Organizations
- International Studies/Student Services
- Facilities: electricity, recycling, water treatment