



Project



MAKE FRIENDS.



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Wunderbolt is a new take on summer camp developed by the Lab for Social Machines in the MIT Media Lab that remotely connects children ages 8-12 with both trained volunteer coaches and other participating children over the summer. We expose children to fun, personalized enrichment activities and projects (both digital and physical) to foster curiosity and creativity in children during the pandemic.

We aim to embody the feeling of summer camp—where kids are engaged, empowered, excited, and enthusiastic to play, be challenged, connect with peers, and learn through doing. At Wunderbolt, every activity and project is hand-picked and personalized for the individual child to spark creativity, fun, and wonder!

This program has been registered through MIT's Protection of Minors program.

SIGN-UP FOR WUNDERBOLT TODAY!

[Family Sign Up](#)

[Coach Sign Up](#)

SESSION 1: June 29nd-July 24th

We plan to offer multiple Wunderbolt sessions this summer giving families and

Overview

People



Credit:
Kelly Sikkema

OUR APPROACH

For Children and Families: The Wunderbolt team recognizes that with remote schooling wrapping up and many summer camps and activities being delayed and even canceled this summer, kids are craving opportunities to connect with others and have fun! We also know that parents and caregivers are balancing the new roles they are playing for their children with all of their other obligations during this tumultuous time. That's why our team created Wunderbolt which aims to fill these gaps during the summer months!

By enrolling your child in Wunderbolt, they can look forward to:

Personalized, independent, and *most-importantly* fun enrichment activities and projects.

Individualized support and regular connections with a trained coach.

Regular opportunities for social connections with other participating kids.

Wunderbolt aims to minimize the burden on children's parents and caregivers by providing children with curated activities, projects, and challenges along with the materials and support they will need to complete them, whether physical or digital. We also provide parents and caregivers with visibility into all aspects of children's interactions with coaches and each other. The activities and projects that coaches share will be both motivated by your child's interests and will be directly supported by the coach.

For Coaches: The Wunderbolt team is in awe of the amazing generosity and motivation we've seen in our communities in direct response to the pandemic. We know that there are many people out there looking to volunteer their time and resources to help others during this time of instability. Through coaching, we hope to provide volunteers with a new and different way to get involved that is low burden, yet high impact!

Commitment and Supports: We will host a 2-hour virtual training for coaches during the week of June 22nd to prepare them for Session 1. The Wunderbolt team will closely support coaches throughout the four-week session. We anticipate that a coach will spend 3 hours per week on average coaching a child.



Credit:
Aaron Burden

OUR TEAM

Wunderbolt was conceived of in the Lab for Social Machines (LSM) at the MIT Media Lab in spring 2020 when a group of graduate students, staff, and faculty came together to try to tackle some of the new educational challenges surfaced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program builds on years of Social Machines research focused on creating connected learning opportunities and building systems to scaffold children's playful, open-ended learning, including with the support of coaches.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any questions or comments, please email wunderbolt@media.mit.edu.

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