



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SUMMER 2018

PROGRAM GUIDE

IN THIS GUIDE

- 2 Summer Science Camp
- 3 More Summer Fun
- 4 Family & Adult
- 5 Programs with Partners
- 6 Activity Calendar
- 7 Fall Science Classes

MISSION

To ignite lifelong curiosity, understanding, and respect for nature through education.

DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

NOON to 5:30 pm TUE - FRI
10 am to 5:30 pm SAT & SUN
CLOSED MONDAYS

ADMISSION IS FREE

Donations are appreciated.
Groups of six or more children by appointment.

PARK & NATURE PLAY AREA HOURS

5 am to 9:30 pm DAILY

Russ Pitman Park is a City of Bellaire Park. Dogs, alcohol, and smoking are prohibited by city ordinance.

naturediscoverycenter.org



NatureDiscoveryCenter



NDCHouston



[naturediscoverycenter](https://www.instagram.com/naturediscoverycenter)

nature discovery center
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BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550



Summer Family Nature Nights are Back!

Family Nature Nights are packed with experiential learning, opportunities for creative expression, and exposure to the natural world through live animal interactions and nature walks.

Select Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm

Activities begin with themed crafts and fun snacks at 6:30 pm, followed by a brief nature walk before a 7:00 pm presentation by a kid-friendly speaker. We wrap things up at 8:00 pm.

*See page 3 inside for monthly dates, topics, and program presenters. **This program requires advance registration.***

NEW AGES 11-13

Outdoor Leader Camp

July 16 – 20 from 9 am to 3:30 pm

Cost: \$250/wk members or \$320/wk non-members

What to bring:

Kids bring lunches and a water bottle. (we provide snacks)

After Care (Add on option)

Monday - Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 pm

After Care Cost: \$60/week or \$15/day

Registration

Advance registration is required.

Limit 10 kids. Register online at: my-ndc.org/activities/outdoor-leader

Develop your outdoor leadership skills through this new day camp program. Learn to build a camp fire, read a map, work as a team to overcome challenges, identify poison ivy, teach games to younger kids, build forts, hold our nature center animals, and more!

Save the Dates for Fall

Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival
October 20 & 21

2018 Twilight Gala
November 9

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP (AGES 5 - 10)

Camp Details

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9 am to 3:30 pm

Cost:

\$250/wk members or
\$320/wk non-members

What to bring:

Kids bring lunches and
a water bottle.
(we provide snacks)

After Care

(Add on option)

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
3:30 to 5:30 pm

Cost:

\$60/week or \$15/day

Registration

Advance registration

is required. Register

online at:

[my-ndc.org/activities/
summer-science-camps](http://my-ndc.org/activities/summer-science-camps)

*Call us at 713.667.6550
if you need assistance
with registration and
we will be happy to
help you!*



2018 Dates & Topics: WL = Wait List

Jun 4 - 8

Bugs & Blooms (WL)

Jun 11 - 15

Oceans

Jun 18 - 22

Oceans

Jun 25 - 29

Bugs & Blooms (WL)

Jul 9 - 13

Sand & Sun: Exploring Deserts

Jul 16 - 20

Nature of Engineering (WL)

Jul 23 - 27

Nature of Engineering (WL)

Jul 30 - Aug 3

Weather Wonders

Aug 6 - 10

Forests & Their Trees (WL)

Aug 13 - 17

Wildlife Habitat Explorers

Aug 20 - 24

Forests & Their Trees (WL)



Camp Descriptions:

Bugs & Blooms

Do insects and others animals rely on flowers, or do flowers rely on animals? Learn all about pollinators and the plants they pollinate with investigations, crafts, and games.

Oceans

Oceans, seas, gulfs: What is really out in that big body of water? Learn about animals, plants, and plant-like organisms that rely on the water for habitat. Not all of the animals are fish, find out what else there is!

Sand & Sun - Exploring Deserts

What makes a desert, where are they, and what are some of the exceedingly cool animals that can live in these hot places?

The Nature of Engineering

Beavers, ants, spiders, and birds provide us with awe inspiring examples of engineering – and so can you! Join us to discover the science of nests, burrows, webs, and more. And then exercise your biomimicry techniques as you engineer your own creations!

Weather Wonders

Discover how the clouds and wind work together to help create the water cycle. What is precipitation and what can it look like? Weather is an important part of our life, so let's get to know it.

Forests & Their Trees

Into the woods we go! Join us for a fun, educational week to learn about trees, forests, and forest animals. Explore the forests of the world, as well as those right here in Texas. Be a junior scientist and study the trees and woodland ecosystem in our very own park.

Wildlife Habitat Explorers

Come explore biomes, the habitats where animals live. Each biome has distinct plant and animal inhabitants. Why? Learn more about the plants and animals that live in scorching deserts, vast grasslands, beautiful forests, mysterious waters and the freezing tundra.

SNEAK-A-PEEK



Ages 3 - 5 with adult

Sneak-a-Peek classes for preschoolers (with adult caregivers) meet for a little over an hour each week. You can pick the days and times that best fit your summer schedule. Class topics this summer include a mixture of fun animal themes and hands-on, experiment based classes designed to ignite your preschooler's natural curiosity!

Days & Times:

Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 am

Wednesdays from 2 to 3:15 pm

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

Advance registration strongly encouraged. Each class period is limited to just 10 students.

Register at my-ndc.org/activities/sneak-a-peek/ or call the Center at 713.667.6550.

2018 Dates & Topics:

Jun 5, 6	Wiggly Worms
Jun 12, 13	Simple Machines
Jun 19, 20	Flutterby Butterflies
Jun 26, 27	Mud Day Celebration!
4th of July Break Week	
Jul 10, 11	Something's Fishy!
Jul 17, 18	Mammal Friends
Jul 24, 25	Wind, Wings & Airborne Things
Jul 31, Aug 1	Turtle Time
Aug 7, 8	Arctic Animals

NATURE NIGHTS

Select Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 pm

**** NOTE: NEW POLICIES THIS SUMMER ****

Cost: \$5/person ages 2+ (including adults)

Advance registration is required. Limit 50 people. Register online at: my-ndc.org/activities/nature-nights

June 13 – Living in Space w/ Lisa Shore, NASA

Lisa Shore will talk to us about what it's like to train for and then live and work in space onboard the International Space Station. Part of working in space includes taking occasional spacewalks to maintain the space station or support science experiments. It's not as easy as it looks in the movies. She'll explain the parts of the US spacesuit, the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU), what it really takes to get your space suit ready to go out the hatch, and what makes spacewalks so challenging. There will be a full size training version of the EMU for demonstration purposes. Audience members will have the opportunity to touch and get pictures of real space suit hardware.

Lisa Shore works in the Flight Operations Directorate (FOD) at the Johnson Space Center and has over 30 years of experience in human spaceflight operations.

July 11 - Freaky Frogs w/ Eric Duran

Nature Center Naturalist Eric Duran will show us the various common frogs of the Houston area, and talk about their lives and habits. We will also learn their calls, and try to make some frog calls. There will be live animals to touch, as we learn more about the biology of frogs and other amphibians

Eric is our primary educator, teaching preschool and elementary classes, developing unique homeschool classes, leading school field trips, and developing the Discovery Room exhibits.

Aug. 8 - Snakes of Texas w/ Gina Distledorf

Discover the lives and habits of common snakes from the Houston area. We will learn about the venomous and non-venomous snakes that you may encounter where you work, live, and hike. There will be a lot of interesting stories, and a chance to encounter and touch live local snakes.

Gina Distledorf, a wildlife rehabber since 1996, has a love for reptiles and amphibians, and is on the Board of Directors and Education Chair for the East Texas Herpetological Society.

See website for full speaker biographies.

💧 = Drop in program. Call 713.667.6550 if you are coming in a large group. Meet at the Center unless otherwise noted.

FAMILY FUN

Meet the Animals 💧

Sunday, June 17 at 2 pm - Insects & Spiders

Get to know our animals with up close and personal animal encounters! Each family-friendly Meet the Animals session includes: hands-on exposure to live animals and/or specimens, an informal discussion about the animal's basic biology and behavior, and a Q/A period with one of our Staff Naturalists.

Cost: \$10/family

Park After Dark Hike (adults & kids ages 4+)

Spiders in the Park *with Cletus Lee*

Friday, June 22 at 8 pm

Join spider expert Cletus Lee for a brief presentation, followed by a fun and informative night hike, where we will learn and encounter some species of spider found in Russ Pitman Park. Bring a flash light!

Advance registration required. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/night-hike/

Cost: \$8 member / \$10 non-member

Mud Day Celebration! 💧 **FREE**

Saturday, June 30 from 10 am to 12 pm

Come prepared for a marvelously muddy good time as we celebrate International Mud Day in our Nature Play Area. Whether you wallow in the mud, stomp in it, paint with it, build with it, or simply make mud pies, you're sure to have a great time. Wear old clothes and bring a beach towel. You can hose down after the fun!



ADULTS

New Adult Nature Series

Our Adult Nature Series, a set of talks, workshops, and events for adults will include quarterly adult only evening hikes, talks, and socials, as well as weekend natural history workshops. It will be interesting, educational, and a lot of fun! Space is limited to ensure a high quality experience for all.

Reservations are required. Visit us online at my-ndc.org/adults-programs/ to reserve your spots!

Houston Snake Identification Workshop

Sunday, July 15 at 2 - 3:30 pm

Ages: 14+

Join Naturalist Eric Duran for an adult level workshop about the basic biology and identification of common snakes of the Houston area. We will also make sure to emphasize the identification and life histories of the 6 species of venomous snakes of the area. The presentation will include live snakes, and be followed with a guided reptile hike.

Cost: \$15/person



Tree Identification Walks 💧 **FREE**

June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8 at 10 am

Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher leads monthly tree identification walks in the park. Jim shares lots of interesting information and historical facts about the many species of trees we have in Russ Pitman Park as well as how to identify them.

Greater Houston Area 'Swift Night Out' Events **FREE**

Join us for our family friendly 'Swift Night Out' (SNO) events this fall. Mark your calendars and come help count the swelling numbers of Chimney Swifts migrating through Houston. We will watch Chimney Swifts swoop and soar over their roosts and count them as they enter their chimneys. We often count over 500 Chimney Swifts in some locations at this time of year!

Bring a folding chair if you care to sit down and mosquito repellent! Binoculars are optional (the swifts are visible with the naked eye as they enter the chimney). For more details, see my-ndc.org/activities/swifts

Dates & Locations for 2018:

Friday, August 24 - 7:45 pm – Pershing Middle School

Friday, September 7 - 7:15 pm – Nature Discovery Center

Friday, September 14 - 7:30 pm – Lakewood Elementary in Sugar Land

Saturday, September 15 - 7:30 pm – Sky High Sports in Spring Branch

Friday, September 28 - 6:30 pm – Kleb Woods Nature Preserve

Smith Point Hawk Watch Trip

Friday, September 28 from 8 am to 6 pm

Our annual Hawk Watch birding trip for seniors to the Smith Point Hawk Watch will take place on the last Friday of September at the height of the raptor migration season. Falcons, Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures gather there before crossing Galveston Bay. Other migrating birds like Hummingbirds, Warblers & Vireos are found there eating as much as possible before they migrate south as well. When time allows, we also stop later to look for nearby shorebirds and take a tour around Shoveler Pond at Anahuac NWR.

See my-ndc.org/activities/hawk-watch for additional trip details and to register.

Age requirement: Age 50 and up

NDC Membership required.

Advance registration required – register at link above or call us at 713-667-6550 to sign up.

with **PARTNERS**

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

June 16, July 21, August 18 & Sept 15 at 7 am

The Nature Discovery Center is partnering with Houston Audubon to conduct the monthly Willow Waterhole bird survey on the 3rd Saturday of each month (except December). We invite you to help with this survey whether you are a novice or have experience birding!

Meet in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive, Houston.

Yoga in the Park **FREE**

Sundays at 8:30 am

Come out for weekly power yoga in the park with Laura Gabriel! Designed to make you sweat, these classes are a great way to connect with community while enjoying the park. Follow "Yoga at Nature Discovery Center" on Facebook for scheduling info. Yoga meets in Pecan Grove in front of the Nature Discovery Center building.



JUNE					1	2 Tree ID Walk 10a
3 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	4 Summer Science Camp Bugs & Blooms M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	5 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Wiggly Worms 10:30a	6 SAP: Worms 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p	7	8	9
10 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	11 Summer Science Camp Oceans M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	12 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Simple Machines 10:30a	13 SAP: Machines 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p Living in Space 6:30p	14	15	16 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
17 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Meet the Animals: Insects & Spiders 2p	18 Summer Science Camp Oceans M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	19 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Butterflies 10:30a	20 SAP: Butterflies 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p	21	22 Park After Dark Hike Spiders in the Park 8p	23
24 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	25 Summer Science Camp Bugs & Blooms M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	26 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Mud Day 10:30a	27 SAP: Mud Day 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p	28	29	30 Mud Day Celebration 10a

1	2 CENTER CLOSED	3 CENTER CLOSED	4 CENTER CLOSED 4th of July Holiday	5	6	7 Tree ID Walk 10a
8 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	9 Summer Science Camp Sand & Sun: Deserts M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	10 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Something Fishy 10:30a	11 SAP: Fish 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p Freaky Frogs 6:30 p	12	13	14
15 Yoga in the Park 8:30a Houston Snake ID Workshop 2p	16 Summer Science Camp Nature of Engineering & Outdoor Leader Camp M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	17 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Mammal Friends 10:30a	18 SAP: Mammals 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p	19	20	21 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
22 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	23 Summer Science Camp Nature of Engineering M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	24 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Wind & Wings 10:30a	25 SAP: Wind/Wings 10:30a Nature Storytime 4p	26	27	28
29 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	30 Summer Science Camp Weather Wonders M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	31 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Turtle Time 10:30a	JULY			

AUGUST			1	2	3	4
			SAP: Turtles 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p			Tree ID Walk 10a
5 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	6 Summer Science Camp Forests & Their Trees M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	7 Sneak-A-Peek (preK) Arctic Animals 10:30a	8 SAP: Arctic Life 10:30a, 2p Nature Storytime 4p Snakes of TX 6:30p	9	10	11
12 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	13 Summer Science Camp Wildlife Explorers M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	14	15 Nature Storytime 4p	16	17	18 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
19 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	20 Summer Science Camp Forests & Their Trees M - F 9a - 3:30p or 5:30p	21	22 Nature Storytime 4p	23	24 SNO Pershing 7:45p	24
26 Yoga in the Park 8:30a	27	28	29 Nature Storytime 4p	30	31	

FALL KIDS CLASSES

Advance registration required. Register online at: naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs. Call 713.667.6550 for help.

Curious Kids (3 - 5 yrs old with adult)

Tuesdays - 10 to 11:15 am or 4 to 5:15 pm

Preschoolers and their adult caregivers learn basic science concepts in hands-on classes that encourage and celebrate natural curiosity! Curious Kids lessons may incorporate live animals, plants, natural objects, crafts, puppets, stories, and nature walks. See calendar for specific dates and topics.

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

Members-Only Semester Discount: \$195

Fall 2018 Class Topics:

09/11 – Frogs and Friends	11/06 – The Story of Dinosaurs!
09/18 – Slithery Snakes	11/13 – Bird Basics
09/25 – Animals with Bones	11/20 – Thanksgiving Break
10/02 – Forest Friends	11/27 – Squeaky Squirrels
10/09 – Water Creatures	12/04 – Animal Homes
10/16 – What Animals Eat	12/11 – Winter Nature
10/23 – Autumn Nature	12/18 – Winter Crafts
10/30 – Nocturnal Creatures	

Junior Scientists (6 - 10 yrs old)

Thursdays - 4 to 5:30 pm

Junior Scientists explore the natural world and examine a variety of science themes through hands-on investigations and experiments, and in lessons enriched with crafts, games, and more! See calendar for specific dates and topics.

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member

Members-Only Semester Discount: \$195

Fall 2018 Class Topics:

09/13 – The Amphibians	11/15 – Bird Basics
09/20 – Science of Snakes	11/22 – Thanksgiving Break
09/27 – Vertebrate Animals	11/29 – Squirrels & other Rodents
10/04 – Forest Science	12/6 – Habitats and Homes
10/11 – Aquatic Animals	12/13 – Winter Science
10/18 – Carnivores & Herbivores	12/20 – Winter Animals
10/25 – Autumn Science	
11/01 – Nocturnal Creatures	
11/08 – The Story of Dinosaurs	



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SUMMER '18 PROGRAM GUIDE with Preview of Fall Class Schedules



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