



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2019

PROGRAM GUIDE

IN THIS GUIDE

- 2 Kids Programs
- 2 Family Programs
- 3 Adult Programs
- 4 Programs with Partners
- 4 Activity Calendar
- 6 Summer Science Camp
- 7 Sneak-a-Peek
- 7 Teen Volunteer Jobs

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 call for an 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

nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550



Spring Break Day Camp

(5-10 yrs old)

March 11 - 15

Themed day camps full of games, crafts, and hands-on nature activities meet from 9 am to 3:30 pm each day. Kids bring lunch and a water bottle and we provide snacks. See calendar inside this Program Guide for topics each day. Visit naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs to sign up.

Cost/Day:
\$49 member / \$59 non-member

After Care until 5:30 pm: \$15/day.

Even when camps are already on Wait List status, we encourage you to sign up because cancellations may occur.

Spring Fling



FREE

**Saturday, April 13
from 10 am to 3 pm**

Join us for a fun and informative family-friendly event to celebrate Spring and Earth Day with a day out in the park.

There will be nature and environmental activities crafts and exhibits for children, family nature hikes, live animals, and a food truck. Activities will be spread out around the park, as we'll explore the pond, the forest, and the prairie gardens.

**Planning ahead for summer?
Summer Camp & Class Info Inside!**

KIDS

**Advance registration required unless otherwise specified. Register for kid's programs online at: naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs
Call 713.667.6550 for assistance.**

Curious Kids (3 - 5 yrs old with adult)

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

Preschoolers and their parents or caregivers will 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

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

School is Out Day Camp

(5-10 yrs old)

Friday, April 19 from 9 am to 3:30 pm

Habitat Hideaways

Cost: \$49 member / \$59 non-member

After Care is available until 5:30 pm for \$15.

Register online at my-ndc.org/kids-programs

Nature Story Time **FREE**

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

Stories, simple crafts, specimens and more for preschoolers and their caregivers.



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

FAMILIES

Meet the Animals

April 28 at 2 pm - Reptile Rendezvous

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

Walk on the Wild Side

March 9 & May 5 at 10:30 am

Explore and learn more about the wild side of nature in the city with our fun, family-friendly nature walks in Russ Pitman Park. Join us to sneak up on lizards, peer through a spotting scope for close up looks at honey bees or birds, search for colorful spring flowers, and investigate more seasonal nature surprises! These walks are about an hour long.

Cost: FREE member / \$5/family non-member



Park After Dark (adults & kids ages 4 & up)

May 4 at 7 pm

June 8 at 8 pm

Learn about the owls that are out in Russ Pitman Park once the sun goes down. Bring your family for a guided night walk through the park. Programs include an introduction to the owls we are likely to find and the best ways to find them, followed by a guided exploration through the park. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/night-hike/

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

TEENS & ADULTS

Frog Fundamentals: an Identification & Biology Workshop

Sunday, May 19 from 2 to 4 pm

Warmer temperatures bring out all kinds of creatures who went away for the winter. In Springtime, the frogs emerge from their hiding places to feed and sing and find mates. In this adult workshop, we'll learn to identify local species of frogs and toads through visual field marks and courtship songs. After an educational presentation, we'll head out into the park to look for live amphibians. Ages: 16+

Cost: \$25/person

Reservations are required. Visit us online at my-ndc.org/adults-programs/ to sign up!

ADULTS

Birds & Booze Owl Prowl an Adult Nature Series Event

Friday, May 10 from 8 to 10 pm

Spring has sprung at the Nature Discovery Center, and the forest has come alive at night. Join us for a night of drinks, snacks, and nocturnal animals. We'll have a brief presentation to learn about owls, and then head out on a night hike to see if we can find some nocturnal friends. Ages 21+. Adult beverages and snacks will be provided.

Cost: \$20/person

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



1st Monday Morning Gardening

March 4, April 1 & May 6 from 9:30 am to Noon

Do you want to learn more about native plant gardening, non-native invasive species and help us care for the park at the same time? Join us for some light spring gardening on the first Monday of the month and help us care for the park.

Email Mary Ann Beauchemin if you are interested in coming at mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org.

1st Saturday Tree Walks **FREE**

March 2, April 6, May 4 at 10 am

Interested in learning how to identify local trees? Jim McKee, a Master Naturalist, tree lover, and bird watcher leads monthly springtime 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.

Spring Migration Field Trip

Friday, April 26 from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Our annual Spring Migration Field trip for senior members to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and High Island during the height of spring migration is set to go! It is a great time to look for many species of warblers, vireos, buntings, orioles and other migrants.

Age requirement: Seniors only, ages 50+

NDC Membership required.

Advance registration required. Register online at my-ndc.org/activities/senior-birding-trip/.

Cost: \$8/person for Audubon Sanctuary Day Pass OR free with Audubon Sanctuaries Season Pass.

Weekly Bird Walks **FREE**

We offer a variety of guided weekly bird walks during Spring Migration. Join us for a daytime or evening stroll in the park to enjoy our resident and migrant birds. Need to borrow binoculars? Contact Mary Ann at least an hour before. mbeauch@naturediscoverycenter.org

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Wednesdays, Feb 27 - May 8 from Noon to 1:15 pm
(We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after.)

Early Evening Birding (EEB)

Tuesdays, April 2 - May 7 from 6 to 7:15 pm

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey

March 16 at 8am, April 20 & May 18 at 7 am

The Nature Discovery Center and Houston Audubon partner to conduct the monthly Willow Waterhole bird survey on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We invite you to help out with this survey, whether you're a novice or have birding experience!

Meet in the parking lot of the Gathering Place at 5310 South Willow Drive, Houston, TX 77035.

Chimney Swift Counts

Center Staff, volunteers, and visitors keep track of migrating and nesting Chimney Swifts. Stop by to take part in some citizen science with us!

NDC Chimney Swift Counts

Tuesdays, April 2 - May 7 from 7:15 pm to dusk

Meet us at one of the two Swift towers in the park.

with **PARTNERS**

Bellaire Garden Club Meetings

First Thursdays at 7 pm

The Bellaire Garden Club holds monthly meetings at the Nature Discovery Center. Everyone is invited!



MARCH						1	2 Tree ID Walk 10a
3	4	5 CK: Light & the Sun 10a, 4p	6 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	7 JS: Light & the Sun 4p Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	8	9 Walk on the Wild Side10:30a	
10	11 World Animals 9a Spring Break Week Day Camps M - Th 9a - 3:30p	12 Bugs Galore 9a	13 Ninjas in Nature 9a Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	14 Spring Nature 9a	15 Wild Weather 9a	16 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a	
17	18	19 CK: Creepy Crawly Inverts 10a, 4p	20 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	21 JS: Creepy Crawly Inverts 4p	22	23	
24	25	26 CK: Fantastic Fish 10a, 4p	27 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	28 JS: Fantastic Fish 4p	29	30	
31							

	1 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	2 CK: Totally Turtles 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	3 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	4 JS: Totally Turtles 4p Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	5	6 Tree ID Walk 10a
7	8 Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due Wednesday	9 CK: Mushrooms 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	10 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	11 JS: Mushrooms 4p	12	13 Spring Fling 10a - 3p
14	15	16 CK: Wonderful Worms 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	17 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	18 JS: Wonderful Worms 4p	19 Habitat Hideaways School is Out Day Camp 9a - 3:30p	20 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
21 CENTER CLOSED	22	23 CK: Terrific Trees 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	24 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	25 JS: Terrific Trees 4p	26 Spring Migration Field Trip for Senior NDC Members 7:30a - 7:30p	27
28 Meet the Animals: Reptile Rendezvous 2p	29	30 CK: Springtime: Wildflowers 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	APRIL			

MAY			1 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	2 JS: Springtime: Wildflowers 4p Bellaire Garden Club Meeting 7p	3	4 Tree ID Walk 10a Park After Dark Owl Prowl 7p
5 Walk on the Wild Side 10:30a	6 Monday Morning Gardening 9:30a	7 CK: Springtime: Birds 10a, 4p Birdwalk (EEB) 6p Swift Count 7:15p	8 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	9 JS: Springtime: Birds 4p	10 Adults Only Birds & Booze Owl Prowl 8p	11
12	13	14 CK: Springtime: Butterflies 10a, 4p	15 Nature Story Time 4p	16 JS: Springtime: Butterflies 4p	17	18 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
19 Frog Fundamentals: ID & Biology Adult Workshop 2p	20	21 CK: Springtime: Frogs 10a, 4p	22 Nature Story Time 4p	23 JS: Springtime: Frogs 4p	24	25
26	27 CENTER CLOSED	28	29 Nature Story Time 4p	30	31	

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/water)

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!*



2019 Dates & Topics:

Jun 3 - 7	Science of Art
Jun 10 - 14	Nature Symbols of Texas
Jun 17 - 21	Spineless Safari
Jun 24 - 28	Spineless Safari
Jul 8 - 12	Nature's Cycles
Jul 15 - 19	Wild Adaptations
Jul 22 - 26	Nature Symbols of Texas
Jul 29 - Aug 2	Nature's Cycles
Aug 5 - 9	Backbone Bonanza
Aug 12 - 16	Backbone Bonanza
Aug 19 - 23	Wild Adaptations

Camp Descriptions:

Science of Art

With creative sparks and a bit of ingenuity we will bring science and art together in a camp full of (potentially) messy masterpieces! Campers will use chemical reactions, the laws of physics, and other scientific principles to create artwork with Shrinky Dinks, paper mache, paints and other media.

Nature Symbols of Texas

Join us to discover the wide and varied wildlife of the great state of Texas. From armadillos to monarchs, bluebonnets to pecans, and longhorns to mockingbirds, we'll cover the iconic animals and plants of the state we live in to learn what makes Texas' wildlife so special.

Spineless Safari

Some creep, some crawl, some burrow, some swim, some fly. You can find them almost anywhere on earth you look! They have been around for over a billion years! Join us on a week long safari to investigate insects and other invertebrates - the spineless wonders of the world.

Nature's Cycles

Campers will take a deep dive into the lifetimes of frogs, dragonflies, butterflies, and plants to learn more about the transformations that organisms go through during their life cycles. They'll also get their feet wet investigating the water cycle. Nature's cycles will come alive for our campers through crafts, games, role play, nature walks and animal investigations.

Wild Adaptations

The physical and behavioral adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive and thrive in our changing world can be wild and wacky! Enroll in this camp for a week of wild adventures as you learn about these amazing adaptations through animal encounters, specimen observations, games and more.

Backbone Bonanza

Explore the five groups of animals with backbones, spending each day with a different group. Through crafts, nature hikes, observation studies, and live animal investigations, campers will get to know: Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals.



SNEAK-A-PEEK (AGES 3 - 5 WITH ADULT)

Sneak-a-Peek summer 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.



2019 Dates & Topics:

Jun 4, 5 Fantastic Frogs

Jun 11, 12 Sudsy Science

Jun 18, 19 Colors of Life

Jun 25, 26 Glorious Mud!

4th of July Break Week

Jul 9, 10 Life Under a Log

Jul 16, 17 Fun with Fossils

Jul 23, 24 Incredible Ants

Jul 30, 31 Nature Art: Messy Masterpieces

Aug 6, 7 Slithery Snakes

SPRING/SUMMER TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Wanted: Teen Counselors!

We're always looking for quality counselors to help with our school holiday camps and with our Summer Science Camps. An ideal Nature Discovery Center counselor is at least 13 years old, is mature and responsible for his/her age, likes to work with kids, and can commit to being here from 8:30 am to 4 pm for their assigned camp days.

If you are interested in being a counselor for **Spring Break Camp (March 11 - 15)**, please email Anne Eisner at aeisner@naturediscoverycenter.org or call her at 713.667.6550.

If you are interested in being a **Summer Science Camp Counselor**, download our online **Summer Teen Volunteer Application** and return it by **April 10**. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

Summer Teen Volunteer Docents Needed

Are you a natural leader with an outgoing personality? Would you enjoy helping groups of children learn about science and nature? We need volunteer docents, ages 13 and older, to help us lead small, chaperoned school groups on nature tours of Russ Pitman Park and on visits to our Discovery Rooms.

Volunteer Docents work 9:30 am to noon or 1 pm to 5 pm Tuesday through Friday.

If you are a teenager interested in serving as a **Volunteer Discovery Room Docent**, please download our **Summer Teen Volunteer Application** online now and return it by **April 10**. Candidate interviews will be held in April.

Watering Volunteers Are Always Welcome! Contact Mary Ann at 713-667-6550 to learn how you can help!



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

nature discovery center

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BELLAIRE, TX 77401

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NEW

**SPRING 2019
PROGRAM GUIDE**
with Summer Camp
& Class Schedules



SAVE THE DATES

Summertime Family Nature Nights

Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14
6:30 to 8 pm

Topics will include:
Snakes, Turtles, & Birds



This program guide is generously sponsored by:



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