



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2023

PROGRAM GUIDE

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MISSION

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

SPRING 2023

DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

10 am to NOON TUE - THU
4 pm to 6 pm TUE - THU

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.

VISIT US ONLINE

<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/>

 NatureDiscoveryCenter

 naturediscoverycenter

nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550

Spring Break Day Camps

March 13 - 17

School's Out Day Camps

March 31, April 7, & April 21

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

To sign up, visit:

<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/>

Cost/Day:

\$65 member / \$80 non-member



Spring Fling



FREE

Saturday, April 29 - 10 am to 2 pm

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

There will be nature and environmental activities, crafts, and exhibits, family nature hikes, live animals, and more.

Activities will be spread out around the park, as we'll explore the pond, the forest, and the prairie gardens.



Member discounts for our programs are restricted to Family Level and higher members.

KIDS

Junior Conservationist Backpacks

Tuesday - Thursday from 10 am to noon & 4 to 6 pm

Come check out an activity guide and a **loaner** backpack containing binoculars, a compass, and magnifying glass. Activities include a nature hunt to find living and non-living things, guessing how long things take to decompose, learning how to use a compass, and exploring the life of a tree through the tree rings. **Kids who complete the activities will earn a wooden Junior Conservationist badge when they return the backpack.**

This program was developed by Chloe Schueppert for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Advance registration required unless otherwise specified. Register for kid programs online at:
<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/>

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 the calendar in this guide for specific dates and topics.

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

Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

Sundays, 10 am or 1 pm


Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together we will explore and create, sometimes making take home and ephemeral works of art, doughs, slimes, etc. with natural and man-made materials. We'll make beautiful messes together, but go home clean! See the calendar in this guide for specific dates and topics.

Cost/Class: \$22 member / \$27 non-member

Nature Story Time

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

Meet us at the Center for stories, simple crafts, specimens and more for preschoolers and their caregivers.

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

FAMILIES

Discovery Rooms

Tuesday - Thursday from 10 am to noon & 4 to 6 pm

Families who visit our Discovery Rooms meet our animal ambassadors up close, learn about animals and plants by examining touchable natural history specimens, and have an opportunity to browse books in our children's library, solve puzzles, make simple crafts, and more. Come visit us and make some discoveries of your own. This is a great time to ask our staff naturalists questions!

Advance registration required. These are not drop off programs. All children must be registered and must be accompanied by a registered adult. Register for family programs online at:
<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/families-programs/>

Walk on the Wild Side (start on front porch)

April 8 at 2 pm

Explore 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.

Cost: \$5 member / \$10 non-member

Meet the Animals (at the Pavilions)

March 18 at 2 pm - Awesome Amphibians

May 13 at 2 pm - Insects are Interesting

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: \$5/person whether a kid or an adult

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

May 19 at 8 pm - Owl Prowl

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.

Cost: \$10 member / \$12 non-member

ADULTS

1st Saturday Tree Walks **FREE**

March 7, April 4, May 2 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.

Weekly Bird Walks **FREE**

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Wednesdays, Feb 26 - May 6 from Noon to 1:15 pm
(We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after.)

Join us for a daytime stroll through the park during spring migration to enjoy our resident and migrant birds.

Spring Migration Field Trip: Birding Along the Upper Texas Coast

Sunday, April 16

Join birding expert and board member Cin-Ty Lee and retired NDC Head Naturalist Mary Ann Beauchemin on a day trip along the upper Texas coast during the 2023 spring migration.

We will start from the **Bolivar Peninsula** in search of shorebirds and waders, which will be staging in large numbers as they prepare to head north. After Bolivar, we will head to **High Island**, where we will look for colorful Neotropical songbirds as they come in off the Gulf of Mexico. If there is time, we will end the day at **Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge** in search of more waders and some breeding songbirds.

This trip is good for beginners and advanced birders as there will be something for everyone.

Additional trip details, including meeting points and times, will be emailed to all registered participants.

Advance registration required. Register online at <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/adults-programs/>

Cost: \$75 member / \$95 non-member

Note: entrance to High Island requires an \$8/person Sanctuary Day Pass OR is free with Audubon Sanctuaries Season Pass.

Adult Nature Night: Nocturnal Creatures

**AGES
21+**

Friday, May 12 from 7 to 9 pm

Join us for an adult themed program and night time nature hike, where we learn about nocturnal wildlife. We'll mingle over drinks and snacks, and a few party games before the presentation and hike. It should be interesting, and a lot of fun!

Reservations are required. Visit us online at <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/adults-programs/> to reserve your spots!

Cost: \$25/person



with PARTNERS

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey **FREE**

March 21 at 8am, April 18 & May 16 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.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Spring & Summer Teen Counselors

We’re looking for quality counselors to help with our School Break Camps and our Summer Science Camps. An ideal Nature Discovery Center **Teen 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 **Spring Break Camp Counselor** (March 13 - 17), please email: DeAndra at dramsey@naturediscoverycenter.org.

If you are interested in being a **Summer Science Camp Counselor**, please complete our online **Summer Teen Volunteer Application** by **April 28**. Visit <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/>

Camp Counselor Trainings will be held on Sunday, May 21 from 1 to 3 pm and Wednesday, May 24 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Summer teen volunteer counselors are required to attend one of these trainings.

Animal Care Volunteers

We need teens who love animals to volunteer at the NDC and help us care for our resident ambassador animals this spring.

Animal Care volunteer shifts are a one day a week commitment for the Spring Season (March – May). Time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours. Duties include, but are not limited to, cleaning enclosures, preparing diets, and feeding animals.

Spots are limited. If you’d like to be an **Animal Care Volunteer**, please contact Liz Fries at efries@naturediscoverycenter.org

Discovery Room Guides & Front Desk Greeters

We also welcome volunteers to assist us in greeting and guiding visitors to the nature center’s Discovery Rooms.

Front Desk Greeters welcome visitors to the Center and orient them to upcoming programs and activities at the Center before they visit the Discovery Rooms. Greeters also check out backpacks to park visitors.

Discovery Room Guides introduce visitors to our ambassador animals, show visitors how to handle our specimens, and orient them to activities they may find interesting in the Discovery Rooms during their visit.

If you are interested in serving as a **Front Desk Greeter** or **Discovery Room Guide**, please fill out our online volunteer application and email dramsey@naturediscoverycenter.org.

MARCH			1	2	3	4
			Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p			Tree ID Walk 10a
			Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
5 MM: Mix it Up! 10a, 1p	6	7	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p		10	11
		CK: Deer & Antlers 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
12	13 Messy Play Monday Day Camp 9a-3p	14 Baby Animals Day Camp 9a-3p	15 Texas Animals Day Camp9a-3p	16 Terrific Trees Day Camp 9a-3p	17 Spring Nature Day Camp 9a-3p	18 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
			Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n			Meet the Animals 2p
19	20	21	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p		24	25
		CK: In the Garden 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
26 MM: Color Splash 10a, 1p	27	28	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p		31 Squeaky Squirrels Day Camp 9a-3p	
		CK: Fabulous Fish 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			

APRIL						1 Tree ID Walk 10a
2	3	4 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Sneaky Snakes 10a, 4p	5 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	6	7 Sneaky Snakes Day Camp 9a-3p	8 Walk on the Wild Side 10a
9 CENTER CLOSED	10	11 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Spring Nature 10a, 4p	12 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	13	14 Twilight Gala 6p	15 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
16 Spring Migration Field Trip 7:30a - 7:30p	17	18 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Spring Bird Migration 10a, 4p	19 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	20	21 Beautiful Butterflies Day Camp 9a-3p	22 EARTH DAY
23 MM: Earthy Activities 10a, 1p	24	25 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Spring Wildflowers 10a, 4p	26 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	27	28 Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due TODAY	29 Spring Fling 10a - 2p
30						

	1	2 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Spring Butterflies 10a, 4p	3 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	4	5	6 Tree ID Walk 10a
7 MM: Water Works 10a, 1p	8	9 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Turtles 10a, 4p	10 Nature Story Time 4p	11	12 Adult Nature Night Nocturnal Creatures 7-9p	13 Meet the Animals: Insects 2p
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15	16 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Frogs & Tadpoles 10a, 4p	17 Nature Story Time 4p	18	19 Park After Dark Owl Prowl 8p	20 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
21	22	23 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p	24 Nature Story Time 4p	25	26	27
28	29 Invertebrates Mini Camp 9a-Noon MEMORIAL DAY	30 Fish Mini Camp 9a-Noon	31 Repts & Amphibs Mini Camp 9a-Noon	MAY		
		Discovery Rooms CLOSED				

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS

Camp Details

Ages: 5 to 10

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9 am to 3 pm

Cost / week:

\$295 member or
\$375 non-members

What to bring:

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

Registration

**Advance registration
is required.** Register

online at:

<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/>

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



2023 Dates & Camp Descriptions:

Jun 5 - 9 & Jun 12 - 16 Into the Trees

Come explore the forests of the world with us as we have a look at trees, forests, and the animals that live in them. We'll learn to identify and care for native Texas trees. We'll encounter forest and tree dwelling animals out in the park, and live animals in the classroom. We'll also learn about different forest types around the world.

Jun 19 - 23 & Jun 26 - Jun 30 Tracks and Scat

Become an animal tracker and learn how to identify animals by the signs they leave behind in nature. You'll investigate tracks and make some of your own in this camp full of tips and techniques naturalists use to study animals in the wild. We'll also take a peek at animal poop. Everybody poops, and poop can be a great storyteller of where animals live, where and when they move in their habitat, what they have been eating, and more!



Jul 10 - Jul 14 & Jul 17 - Jul 21 Creepy Crawlies

Join us as we get to know the world's spineless wonders. In outdoor rambles and classroom investigations, we'll encounter a wide variety of invertebrate animals. Worms, insects, spiders, centipedes, and octopuses... oh my!

Jul 24 - 28 & Jul 31 - Aug 4 Messy Nature Play

Kids, you need a time and place where you can connect with nature and have fun making big messes, and this camp is it! Feel mud between your toes, dig in the dirt with your hands, play with sticks, and more during fun days of messy play at camp. You'll hose down and wash up before pick-up so the mess stays with us! A win-win for you and for your parents!

Aug 7 - 11 & Aug 14 - 18 World of Water

Water covers most of the surface of the Earth, and there are multitudes of animals that live in water. Join us on an aquatic adventure, as we discover the lives of animals that live in oceans, lakes, rivers and ponds from around the world.



SUMMER PROGRAMS continued

MINI-CAMPS

Half day camps perfect for young or first time campers. Hands-on activities, games, art projects, new friends, and animal encounters will give your kiddo a taste of what summer camp at the Nature Discovery Center is all about.

Campers should bring a refillable water bottle. They will have a snack at camp, but will eat lunch at home.

Ages: 4 to 7

Times: Camps run from 9 am to 12 noon.

2023 Dates & Topics:

May 29 – Invertebrates

May 30 – Fish

May 31 – Herps: Reptiles & Amphibians

June 1 – Birds

June 2 – Mammals

Cost / day: \$40 member / \$50 non-member

Limit: 20 campers in two groups of 10 with one camp instructor and one counselor per group

Registration is by the day. Advance registration is required.

SNEAK-A-PEEK

Sneak-a-Peek summer classes for preschoolers (with adult caregivers) meet for a little over an hour once per month to cover fun animal themes with hands-on activities designed to ignite your preschooler's natural curiosity!

Ages: 3 to 5 with an adult caregiver

Days & Times: Select Tuesdays at 10 am or 1 pm

2023 Dates & Topics:

Jun 6 - Frogs & Toads are Friends

Jul 11 - Magnificent Mammals

Aug 8 - Reptile Round-Up

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

Class Limit: 10 children with their adult caregiver

Advance registration is required.

Mess Makers

Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together with NDC staff and volunteers, you will explore and create with messy things like mud, flowers, paint, and shaving cream. We will make works of art as well as just good old messy fun. After we make messes together, you'll go home clean!

We'll meet at the Pavilions behind the Center and plan to hold class outdoors.

Ages: 3 – 7 yrs old with an adult caregiver

Days & Times: Select Sundays at 10 am or 1 pm

2023 Dates and Topics

Jun 11 - Foamy Fun

Jul 16 - Sand on our Hands

Aug 13 - Colorful Messes

Class Limit: 15 children with their adult caregiver

Cost/Class: \$22 member / \$27 non-member

Advance registration is required.



Find summer program registration online at
<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/>



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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

NEW

SPRING 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

with Summer Camp
& Class Schedules



SAVE THE DATES

Summertime Family Nature Nights

Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 9
6:30 to 8 pm

Topics will include: Furry Friends,
Scaly & Slimy, & Creepy Crawlies

