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

SUMMER 2023 DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS
10 am to 2 pm SAT - SUN

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
naturediscoverycenter.org
NatureDiscoveryCenter
naturediscoverycenter

nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550

Go Batty with 3 New Programs!

Bats, Beers, & Bingo!
July 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Come have a fun night of bats, beers, and bingo! We will have beer and wine as well as some snacks while we learn all about our batty friends. We will be playing bingo while we answer any and all questions you might have about bats! We will end the evening with a night hike using our bat monitors to see (or hear!) who is flying around above our heads.

Ages: Adults only - ages 21 and up.
Cost: $25 per person

Family Bat Chat & Night Hike
August 18 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Join our colony! Come learn all about our friends who fly at night: bats! We will learn all about bats, what makes them so special, and even do some bat crafts. Around sunset, we will begin our night hike. We will be bringing our bat monitors to see (or hear!) who is flying around above our heads! We should be done with our hike around 9:30.

Cost: $10 per person

Advance registration is required for all three of our new bat programs. Register online at: www.naturediscoverycenter.org
SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS

Camp Details

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.

Cost / week:
$295 member or $375 non-members

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

Ages: 5 to 10

Days & Times: Monday - Friday from 9 am to 3 pm

Cost / week:
$295 member or $375 non-members

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!
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.

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.

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.

Find summer program registration online at https://naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs/
Family Nature Nights

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.

Cost: $12/person (ages 3+, including adults, children must be accompanied by an adult)

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

June 21 – Furry Friends
July 19 - Scaly & Slimy
Aug 9 - Creepy Crawlies

Mud Day Celebration!

Saturday, June 24 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!

Park Explorer Pack

Loaner Backpack Program

We’ve loaded 5 themed loaner backpacks up with tools, educational resources, and fun activities that you can use to create your own adventure out on our trails. You get to decide which activities and tools look interesting to you! Complete one activity or do them all. We hope you have a great time exploring the park!

June 21 – Furry Friends
July 19 - Scaly & Slimy
Aug 9 - Creepy Crawlies

Program Details

Check Out/In: at the NDC front reception desk
Summer hours - Saturdays & Sundays 10 am to 2 pm

Loan Period: up to ONE week from date of check-out

Cost: NDC Family Members - FREE; non-members - $5/family

Suggested Ages: Ages 4 to 10
Note: Backpacks contain a variety of activities that range in needed skills.

Limitations: Only ONE Park Explorer Pack may be checked out per family at a time.
Note: Additional paper activity sheets will be provided for siblings as needed.
Tree Identification Walks  
June 3, July 1, August 5, September 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.

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey  
June 17, July 15, August 19 & Sept 16 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.

Greater Houston Area ‘Swift Night Out’ Events  
Keep your eyes out for family friendly ‘Swift Night Out’ (SNO) events this fall. SNO Events are typically held across the Greater Houston Area on both weekday and weekend evenings starting between 7 and 7:30 pm from the end of August through September. At each event, 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!

School Break Day Camps (5 - 10 yrs old)

Send the kids with their lunch and a refillable water bottle and we’ll do the rest. Your children will be engaged and entertained by our science and nature themed camps.

2023 Dates & Topics:
09/04 - Magnificent Mammals 09/25 - Beautiful Birds
09/10 – Stamp, Stomp, Smash 10/08 – Pumpkins
10/10 – Pumpkin Guts 10/22 – Pumpkin Guts
11/05 – Fort Follies 11/19 – This Oat to be Fun
12/03 – Land Art & Loose Parts

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!

2023 Dates & Topics:
09/12 – Pond Pals 11/07 – Fall Nature
09/19 – Reptile Rendezvous 11/14 - Biodiversity
09/26 – Animal Colors FALL BREAK - No Class
10/03 – Insects 11/28 – Furry Friends
10/10 – Funky Fungus 12/05 – Bird Adaptations
10/17 – Fruits & Veggies 12/12 – Winter Nature
10/24 – Owl be There! 12/19 – Winter Crafts
10/31 – Nocturnal Animals

Save the Date for Fall 2023
Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival
October 14 & 15
11 am - 4 pm
### JUNE

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### FALL PROGRAM

- Registration Starts for NDC Members
- Registration Starts for Non-members
### PARK PLAY DAY

**Sprinkler Day at the Center**

**September 3 from 10 am to 2 pm**

School may have started, but here in Texas our summer heat is not quite over. Bring your kids to the Center to cool off with a favorite summer pastime - running through sprinklers! The Center’s front lawn, Pecan Grove, will be set up with sprinklers and kiddie pools of water and water toys for refreshing water play!

Kids should bring or wear their bathing suit and should bring a towel and a change of clothes.

### NDC MEMBERSHIP

Become a Family Level NDC Member for just $75 today or renew your existing membership today!

**Perks of NDC Family Level Membership:**

- Class/Camp/Program discounts (some programs, like Loaner Backpacks, are FREE for Members)
- Early access to Camp registration
- Ability to host a Birthday Party at the Center
- Invites to Members-only events
- Our Quarterly Program Guide sent via email
SUMMER ‘23
PROGRAM GUIDE
& FALL PREVIEW

Family Nature Nights
Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 9

Mud Day
Jun 24