



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SUMMER 2023

PROGRAM GUIDE

Go Batty with 3 New Programs!

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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](https://www.facebook.com/NatureDiscoveryCenter)

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

nature discovery center
7112 NEWCASTLE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401
T 713.667.6550

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

Batty Bridge - Family Field Trip!

July 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

We will begin our time at the Nature Discovery Center learning all about bats, doing some bat crafts, and eating some snacks. We will leave the NDC at 7:30 to head to Waugh Drive Bat Colony to continue our talk there and watch the emergence. Families will be responsible for their own transportation to the bridge. Families will be free to go home from the bridge whenever they chose.

Cost: \$10 per person

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



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



KIDS 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.



KIDS PROGRAMS contd.

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/>



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

FAMILY FUN

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!



FREE

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



PERFECT FOR SUMMER!

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!



Park Explorer Pack Themes

- **Birds** - Learn about basic biology and behavior of birds through investigations and games, try to identify birds in the park, design a new bird, try some bird yoga, & more!
- **Insects & Invertebrates** - Explore life under a log, catch and observe insects and their other invertebrate neighbors, play bug bingo, and learn a bee dance among other activities.
- **Pond Life** - Dipnet for fish, tadpoles, and aquatic insects, discover a food chain, survey pond life, use your senses to explore Cypress Pond, color a pond scene, and more!
- **Trees** - Examine tree cookies, strike a tree pose, go on a tree based scavenger hunt or two, make leaf rubbings, start a tree journal, or play a game with trees in the park.
- **Wildflowers & Pollinators** - Learn about the flowers pollinators prefer, go on a flower or pollination scavenger hunt, take a closer look at flower parts, catch a pollinator!

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.

ADULTS

Tree Identification Walks



FREE

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



FREE

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



FREE

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!



Swift photos by Frank Farese

FALL PREVIEW

Advance registration required. Register for fall programs online starting July 1 for NDC Family Level Members and up or July 8 for non-members.

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

Camps run from 9 am to 3 pm

Note: Additional Fall Day Camps will be offered 11/7, and 11/20 - 11/22. Details will be in our Fall Program Guide.

Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

Sundays - 10 am or 1 pm

Join us for a fall filled with messy sensory play and crafts!

2023 Dates & Topics:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| September Special | 10/08 - Stamp, Stomp, Smash |
| 2 Part Program - Special Rate | 10/22 - Pumpkin Guts |
| <i>Must attend both sessions.</i> | 11/05 - Fort Follies |
| 09/10 - Paper Mâché Pt 1 | 11/19 - This Oat to be Fun |
| 09/17 - Paper Mâché Pt 2 | 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:

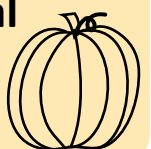
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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 09/12 - Pond Pals | 11/07 - Fall Nature |
| 09/19 - Reptile Rendezvous | 11/14 - Biodiversity |
| 09/26 - Animal Colors | FALL BREAK - No Class |
| 10/03 - Insects | 11/28 - Furry Friends |
| 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 | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---|--|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Birds Mini Camp 9a-Noon | Mammals Mini Camp 9a-Noon | Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 4 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 5 Summer Science Camp Into the Trees M - F 9a - 3p | 6 Sneak-A-Peek (3-5yo) Frogs & Toads 10a, 1p | 7 Nature Storytime 4p | 8 | 9 | 10 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 11 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Mess Makers (3-7yo) Foamy Fun 10a, 1p | 12 Summer Science Camp Into the Trees M - F 9a - 3p | 13 | 14 Nature Storytime 4p | 15 | 16 | 17 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 18 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 19 Summer Science Camp Tracks and Scat M - F 9a - 3p | 20 | 21 Nature Storytime 4p Family Nature Night Furry Friends 6:30p | 22 | 23 | 24 Mud Day Celebration 10a |
| 25 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 26 Summer Science Camp Tracks and Scat M - F 9a - 3p | 27 | 28 Nature Storytime 4p | 29 | 30 | |

| JULY | | | | | | 1 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Fall Program Registration Starts for NDC Members |
|--|---|---|---|----|---|--|
| 2 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 3 | 4 CENTER CLOSED 4th of July Holiday | 5 Nature Storytime 4p | 6 | 7 | 8 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Fall Program Registration Starts for Non-members |
| 9 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 10 Summer Science Camp Creepy Crawlies M - F 9a - 3p | 11 Sneak-A-Peek (3-5yo) Mammals 10a, 1p | 12 Nature Storytime 4p | 13 | 14 Bats, Beers, & Bingo 7:30 - 9:30p | 15 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 16 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Mess Makers (3-7yo) Sand on our Hands 10a, 1p | 17 Summer Science Camp Creepy Crawlies M - F 9a - 3p | 18 | 19 Nature Storytime 4p Family Nature Night Scaly & Slimy 6:30p | 20 | 21 | 22 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 23 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 24 Messy Nature Play Topic TBA M - F 9a - 3p | 25 | 26 Nature Storytime 4p | 27 | 28 Batty Bridge Family Field Trip 6:30 - 9:30p | 29 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|----|---|--|
| 30 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 31 Summer Science Camp Messy Nature Play M - F 9a - 3p | 1 | 2 Nature Storytime 4p | 3 | 4 | 5 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 6 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 7 Summer Science Camp World of Water M - F 9a - 3p | 8 Sneak-A-Peek (3-5yo) Reptiles TBA 10a, 1p | 9 Nature Storytime 4p Family Nature Night Creepy Crawlies 6:30p | 10 | 11 | 12 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 13 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Mess Makers (3-7yo) Colorful Messes 10a, 1p | 14 Summer Science Camp World of Water M - F 9a - 3p | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Family Bat Chat & Night Hike 7:30 - 9:30p | 19 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p |
| 20 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p | 21 | 22 | 23 Nature Storytime 4p | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p | 30 Nature Storytime 4p | 31 | AUG | |
| | | | | | | |

PARK PLAY DAY

Sprinkler Day at the Center FREE

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





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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SUMMER '23 PROGRAM GUIDE & FALL PREVIEW



Family Nature Nights
Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 9



Mud Day
Jun 24