



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2024

PROGRAM GUIDE

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MISSION

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

SPRING 2024

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

Bird Club for Tweens & Adults

NEW

Tweens (10 - 14)

Mondays at 4:30 pm - March 4 to May 20

Adults (18+)

Wednesdays at 5 pm - March 6 to May 22

Do you want to start a new hobby? Here is your chance! Join our bird club and learn the basics of birdwatching. Over 10 weeks you will learn different characteristics and techniques to identify birds successfully. Classes will include a 30-35 minute lecture (printed lecture notes provided) and a 25-30 minute hike in the park to see birds.

Cost: \$175 (This includes binoculars!)

Participants will bring their given binoculars to class.



Spring Fling & **NEW** Native Plant Sale

FREE ENTRY

Saturday, April 27 - 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, exhibits, family nature hikes, live animals, and more. Come explore Cypress Pond, the Deciduous Woodlands, the Pocket Prairie, and gardens.

Look for Bluebonnets, Scarlet Sage, Black-Eyed Susan and more at the NDC's first annual native plant sale! Plants will start at just \$5.

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

KIDS

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 from 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 at 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

Spring Break Day Camps

March 11 - Crazy Cranes
March 12 - Leaping with Frogs
March 13 - Awesome Owls
March 14 - Water Wonders
March 15 - Aquatic Animals

**AGES
5 - 10**

Other School's Out Day Camps

March 25 - Tracking Tracks
March 29 - Terrific Turtles
April 10 - In the Garden

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.

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

Cost/Day:
\$70 member / \$85 non-member



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

Nature Story Time



FREE

Every Wednesday at 4 pm

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

FAMILIES

Discovery Rooms



FREE

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, color themed coloring pages, and more!

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 (starts on front porch)

April 20 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 16 at 2 pm - Insects
May 18 at 2 pm - Mammals

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 member / \$10 non-member

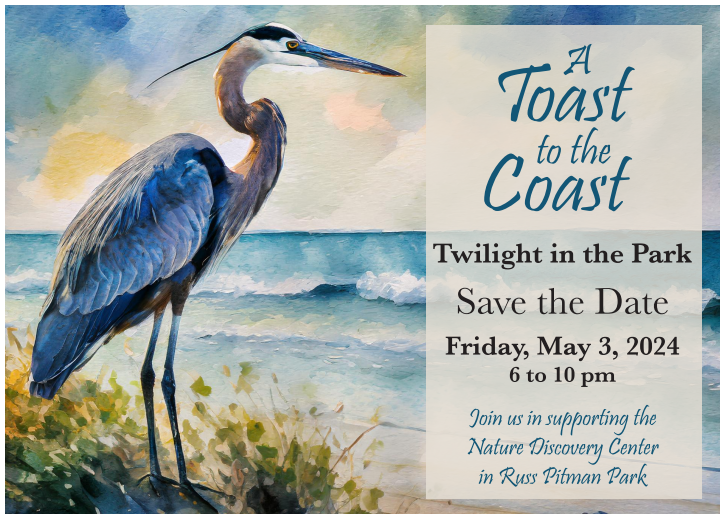
Park After Dark (adults & kids ages 4 & up)

May 17 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 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



Adult Mess Makers: Bubbles & Bubbly

Saturday, April 6 from 1 to 3 pm

Messy play isn't just for kids! Join us for an adults only event where we get to make bubbles, do some fun foam and bubble experiments, make bubbly art projects, and sip on mimosas and cold beer... all in our nature park.

Reservations are required. Register online at <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/adults-programs/>

Cost: \$25/person



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 tree identification walks in the park.

Weekly Bird Walks



FREE

Lunch with the Birds (LWTB)

Wednesdays, March 6 - May 1 from Noon to 1:15 pm

Join us for a daytime stroll through the park during spring migration to enjoy our resident and migrant birds. We don't stop for lunch, but you can picnic before or after.

with PARTNERS

Willow Waterhole Bird Survey



FREE

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.

Rain Barrel Workshop

March 27 at 5 pm



NDC will be hosting a **Galveston Bay Foundation** (GBF) Rain Barrel Workshop aimed to help conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff, pollution, and bacteria entering Galveston Bay. This workshop will consist of a supply pickup, hands-on presentation, and Q&A session with Galveston Bay Foundation staff. Pre-registration is required to reserve a barrel. Register by contacting waterquality@galvbay.org

Cost: \$40/person

We Love to Connect with Corporate Partners

nature discovery center

GREEN TEAM

Service Partners



Is your company looking for a service project opportunity? What better way to build team connections than connecting with nature at NDC as a Green Team Service Partner. Visit <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/green-team/> for more details. 3

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 11 - 15), 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 30**. Visit <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/>

Camp Counselor Trainings will be held:

5/15 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm
5/19 from 1:30 to 3:30 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 Starla at slawhon@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 tell them about upcoming programs and activities before they visit the Discovery Rooms. Greeters also check out backpacks.

Discovery Room Guides introduce visitors to our ambassador animals, show visitors how to gently touch 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
						Tree ID Walk 10a
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Digging in Dirt 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MM: Bubbles & Foam 10a, 1p	Crazy Cranes Day Camp 9a-3p	Leaping with Frogs Day Camp 9a-3p	Awesome Owls Day Camp 9a-3p	Water Wonders Day Camp 9a-3p	Aquatic Animals Day Camp 9a-3p	Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
			Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n			Meet the Animals Insects 2p
		Discovery Rooms Open 4-6p ONLY due to Day Camp				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Plants 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
MM: Color Blast 10a, 1p	Tracking Tracks Day Camp 9a-3p	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p			Terrific Turtles Day Camp 9a-3p	
31		CK: Flowers 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				Tree ID Walk 10a Adult Mess Makers Bubbles & Bubbly 1 - 3p
		CK: Dinosaurs 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Fish 10a, 4p	Garden Day Camp 9a Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
MM: Dirt Doesn't Hurt 10a, 1p		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Walk on the Wild Side 10a
		CK: Spring Nature 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	EARTH DAY	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				Spring Fling 10a - 2p
		CK: Frogs 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
28	29	30	APRIL			
MM: Nature Painting 10a, 1p		DR Open 10-12, 4-6 CK: Snakes 10a, 4p Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due TODAY				

MAY			1	2	3	4
			Discovery Rooms CLOSED		Twilight in the Park A Toast to the Coast 6p-10pm	Tree ID Walk 10a
			Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Lizards 10a, 4p	Nature Story Time 4p			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MM: Fun with Shaving Cream 10a, 1p MOTHER'S DAY		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon ONLY today		Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Meet the Animals: Mammals 2p
		CK: Turtles 10a, 4p	Nature Story Time 4p		Park After Dark Owl Prowl 8p	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Alligators 10a, 4p	Nature Story Time 4p			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	MEMORIAL DAY	Topic: Creatures of the Night Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Endangered Species Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Fascinating Flowers Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Slithery Snakes Mini Camp 9a-Noon	

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS

Camp Details

Ages: 5 to 10

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday from
9 am to 3 pm

Cost / week:

\$300 member or
\$385 non-members
(includes NDC t-shirt)

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!



2024 Dates & Camp Descriptions:

Jun 3 - 7 & Jun 10 - 14

Furry & Fuzzy Friends

Join us for an exploration of mammals, furry and fuzzy friends, from Texas and around the world. We'll seek them in the wild, and meet with live friends in the classroom.

Jun 17 - 21 & Jun 24 - Jun 28

Homes & Habitats

Head out into the wild and explore a number of different animal homes and habitats. We will learn this topic through field science, art, and live animal care.

Jul 8 - Jul 12 & Jul 15 - Jul 19

Wild Jobs

Let's learn what it's like to have a wild job! Along the way, we will learn about (and might even meet) some professionals to give the campers an inside view of their days.



Jul 22 - 26 & Jul 29 - Aug 2

Consider Conservation

This week-long camp will explore nature, ecology, and wildlife. Each day will be packed with different conservation skills and techniques.

Aug 5 - 9

Growing Up Wild

Discover the various ways that plants and animals have babies and grow up. Trekking through the wild and caring for live animals will help us better understand what it is like to grow up in a variety of different ways for living things 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.

2024 Dates & Topics:

May 27 – Prairie Importance
May 28 – Creatures of the Night
May 29 – Endangered Species
May 20 – Fascinating Flowers
May 31 – Slithery Snakes

Cost / day: \$50 member / \$65 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!

Where: We'll meet inside in our classroom, but will also venture out in the park.

Ages: 3 to 5 with an adult caregiver

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

2024 Dates & Topics:

July 14 - Pond Pals
August 18 - Desert Dwellers

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!

Where: 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

2024 Dates and Topics

June 23 - Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud
July 28 - Things that Ooze
August 25 - Wet Messes

Class Limit: 15 children with their adult caregiver

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

Advance registration is required.



Save the Date!



Saturday, June 29



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

nature discovery center

7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401



SPRING 2024 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: Creepy Crawlies,
Scaly & Slimy, and Furry & Fuzzy

