



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SPRING 2025

PROGRAM GUIDE



GAMES • CRAFTS • ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS • CAKE!

We're excited to celebrate the 100th birthday of the historic Henshaw House which serves as our headquarters and indoor program space. Join us and our resident party animals for a birthday party like no other with BBQ sandwiches and black bean burgers and sides, DJ and other entertainment, cake walk, Discovery Rooms, raffle, toss games, and activities for the whole family!

General admission tickets: \$25/person (kids under 2 years old are FREE)

VIP tickets: \$250 (entry for up to 4 people, 4 BBQ plates, designated dining area, 2 youth shirts for tie dye, 1 piece of animal art, exclusive DIY art experience with artist, early Discovery Room access)

Reserve your spots: <https://naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/centennial/>

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Ins. Summer Science Camp
Other Summer Programs

MISSION

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

SPRING 2025

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 Fling FREE ENTRY

Saturday, April 26 - 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.

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

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 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)

Select 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



= Drop in program. Call 713.667.6550 if you are bringing a large group of 6 or more. Meet at the Center unless otherwise noted.

Spring Break Day Camps

March 10 - Spring Time

March 11 - Bugs & Blooms

March 12 - What Animals Eat

March 13 - Baby Animals

March 14 - Spineless Wonders

**AGES
5 - 10**

Other School's Out Day Camps

March 31 - Animals from Acapulco to the Andes

April 18 - Slimy & Slithery

May 2 - Aquatic Animals

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



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/>

Meet the Animals (at the Pavilions)

March 22 at 2 pm - Interesting Insects

May 17 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: \$5 member / \$10 non-member



Spring Wildflower Walk (starts on the porch)

April 19 at 2 pm

Join us for the spectacular native wildflower bloom in Russ Pitman Park. Come explore the front pollinator gardens, the Pocket Prairie, and there Prairie Wetland. There will be gorgeous, colorful blooms to behold and learn about throughout the park. And we're sure to see some productive pollinators at work along the way. This walk lasts about 1 hr.

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





Park Workdays

Thursdays • 9 - 10:30 AM

NEW

Help us plant natives, remove invasives, water new plants, maintain park trails, and more!

Apply on our Volunteer Page, then sign up via our NDC Better Impact Volunteer Portal. No experience necessary. Elzora will guide you. Dress for the weather and to get dirty! Contact Elzora, our Park Steward Assistant, with any questions: erobinson@naturediscoverycenter.org

Spring Migration Field Trip: Birding Along the Upper Texas Coast

Monday, April 21

Join birding expert **Cin-Ty Lee** and retired NDC Head Naturalist **Mary Ann Beauchemin** on a day trip along the upper Texas coast during the 2025 spring migration.

For a change we will bird the Galveston and Quintana areas this year. We will look for migrating song birds at a few stops including **LaFitte's Cove** and the **Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary**. We will also search for shorebirds and waders which will be staging in large numbers as they prepare to head north at **Bryan Beach** and perhaps a stop in Galveston as well.

This trip is good for beginners and advanced birders as there will be something for everyone. Adults and families with children age 7 and up are welcome.

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.

1st Saturday Tree Walks **FREE**

March 1, April 5, May 3 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 19 - April 30 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.

Houston's Snakes

NEW

Saturday, May 3 from 1 to 3 pm

Learn to identify common local Houston area snakes, with an emphasis on venomous snakes. We'll discuss basic snake biology and meet live snakes in the classroom and on the trail.

Ages: Adults and teens ages 16 +

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

Cost: \$20/person



Family Friendly Tree Workshop & Giveaway

Saturday, March 1 from 9am - 12pm

We are pleased to be hosting a terrific tree workshop and giveaway being offered by our partners at **Trees for Houston**. There will be age appropriate educational programs for kids and adults, and **Trees for Houston** will be providing participants with native shade trees in 3 and 5-gallon pots.

Schedule of Activities:

9:00 - 10:00am - **Adult Education Session** - including tree ID

10:00 - 10:30am - Tree pick up at front of center

10:30 - 11:30am - **Children's Education Session** - including a craft and tree education for kids

11:30 - 12:00pm - Tree pick up in front of center

Cost: FREE. **BUT ... advance registration is required** so that we can get a head count/tree count.

Register: naturediscoverycenter.org/families-programs/



Master Urban Composter Certification Course

March 22 & 29 from 9am - 12pm



Start turning your food waste into treasure for your yard! Our local partners at **Zero Waste Houston** are offering an interactive, two-part certification course to prepare & coach you through the process of hot composting; equipping you with the knowledge you need to confidently create compost - from start to finish.

Designed to be interactive & for all experience levels, students will be taught in two formats: in-person, classroom discussions & training and hands-on, outdoor composting laboratory exercises. Both portions of the course will be hosted here at the Nature Discovery Center.



Register: www.houstonschoolofcompost.com

Upon participating in & completing both parts of the course, students will receive a certificate certifying that they are officially a **Master Urban Composter**.



Willow Waterhole Bird Survey



FREE

March 15 at 8am, April 19 & May 17 at 7am

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 10 - 14), 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:

5/18 from 1 to 3 pm
5/22 from 4:30 to 6 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 fill out our online volunteer application and contact Cecilia at csilva@naturediscoverycenter.org.

Discovery Room Guides & 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 pdunker@naturediscoverycenter.org.

MARCH						1 Tree ID Walk 10a Trees for Houston Workshop 9a - 12p Summer Registration Open for Nonmembers
2	3	4 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: What's alive? 10a, 4p	5 Nature Story Time 4p	6	7	8
9 MM: Painting Nature 10a, 1p	10 Spring Time Day Camp 9a-3p	11 Bugs & Blooms Day Camp 9a-3p	12 What Animals Eat Day Camp 9a-3p	13 Baby Animals Day Camp 9a-3p	14 Spinelss Wonders Day Camp 9a-3p	15 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
Discovery Rooms CLOSED due to Day Camp						
16	17	18 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p CK: Fungi 10a, 4p	19 Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	20	21	22 Urban Composter Part I 9a - 12p Meet the Animals Insects 2p
23 MM: Fairy Fun 10a, 1p	24	25 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p	26	27	28	29 Urban Composter Part 2 9a - 12p
30	31 Animals Acapulco to Andes Day Camp 9a-3p	CK: Invertebrates 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			

		1	2	3	4	5 Tree ID Walk 10a
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 11a - 3p
		CK: In the Garden 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Pond Pals 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
MM: Colorful Messes 10a, 1p		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p		DR Open 10-Noon	Slimy & Slithery Day Camp 9a-3p	Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a
		CK: Terrific Turtles 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p	 Member Night 5-7p		Spring Wildflower Walk 2p
20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24	25	26
Spring Migration Field Trip Along the Texas Coast		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				SPRING FLING 10a - 2p
		CK: Spring Nature 10a, 4p	Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			
27	28	29	30	APRIL		
		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				
		CK: Wildflowers 10a, 4p	Summer Teen Volunteer Applications Due TODAY Birdwalk (LWTB) 12n Nature Story Time 4p			

MAY					1	2	3
					DR Open 10a-12n, 4-6p	Aquatic Animals Day Camp 9a-3p	Tree ID Walk 10a Adult Class: Houston's Snakes 1 - 3p
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
MM: Sand & Soil 10a, 1p		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				Summer Season Animal Care Volunteer Applications Due TODAY	
		CK: Butterflies 10a, 4p	Nature Story Time 4p				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
MOTHER'S DAY		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p				Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a	
		CK: Reptiles 10a, 4p	Nature Story Time 4p			Meet the Animals: Reptiles 2p	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Summer Counselor Training 1a-3p		Discovery Rooms Open 10a-Noon, 4-6p					
			Nature Story Time 4p	Summer Counselor Training 4:30-6p			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	MEMORIAL DAY	Discovery Rooms CLOSED This Week					
	Topic: Awesome Amphibians Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Reptile Rampage Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Mammal Mania Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Birds of a Feather Mini Camp 9a-Noon	Topic: Investigating Insects Mini Camp 9a-Noon		



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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401



SPRING 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

with Summer Camp
& Class Schedules



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!

2025 Dates & Camp Descriptions:

Jun 2 - 6 & Jun 9 - 13

Fungi & Flowers

Explore the world of living things that grow out of the soil... plants and fungi. We will discover mushrooms, molds, mosses, flowers, and trees in the classroom, in the park, and in the garden.

Jun 16 - 20 & Jun 23 - Jun 27

Animal Adventures

All ahead for exploration... of the continent we call home. Come along on a journey from the arctic circle to the deserts of West Texas to the wave battered shores of California, as we explore North America. There are so many habitats, animals, and plants to learn about. We'll delve in to the prehistoric origins of American animals, and discover the spectacular diversity. You may be surprised along the way as we uncover the lives of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates of our huge, varied land.



Jul 7 - Jul 11 & Jul 14 - Jul 18

Dive Into Oceans

From shorelines to the deepest trenches, discover the amazing animals, plants, and plant-like organisms that inhabit our oceans, seas, and gulfs. Learn the ins and outs of this vast underwater world that covers 70% of Earth.

Jul 21 - 25 & Jul 28 - Aug 1

Animals from Acapulco to the Andes

Get ready for an astounding expedition from Mexico to the Andes! We'll discover and learn about the incredible diversity of animals and their habitats, from the deserts to the mountains.

Aug 4 - 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.



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

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.

2025 Dates & Topics:

May 26 – Awesome Amphibians
May 27 – Reptile Rampage
May 28 – Mammal Mania
May 29 – Birds of a Feather
May 30 – Investigating Insects

Cost / day:

\$50 member / \$65 non-member

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: Sundays at 10 am or 1 pm

2025 Dates and Topics

June 22 - We Dig Dirt!
July 20 - Land Art in the Park
August 17 - Let's Make a Splash!

Cost/Class:

\$22 member / \$27 non-member

Advance registration is required.



SUMMER SAVE THE DATES

Family Nature Nights

June 11, July 9, August 13
6:30 to 8 pm

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.

Activities begin with themed crafts and fun snacks at 6:30 pm, followed by a brief nature walk before a 7 pm presentation by a kid-friendly speaker. We wrap things up at 8 pm.



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