



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SUMMER 2025

PROGRAM GUIDE

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MISSION

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

SUMMER 2025 DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

10 am to 2 pm SATURDAYS

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

NDC Members-Only Summer Fun!

June 8 from 1 - 3p

July 6 from 10a - 12p

Our NDC Members are invited to join us on the front lawn for refreshing summer fun featuring sprinklers, kiddie pools, bubbles, lawn games, sidewalk chalk, and cool treats!

Members, we hope that you take advantage of your member perks like these special, FREE Members-Only events as a thank you from the Center for your ongoing support!



Not a Member? Not to worry!

There is still time to become an NDC Member and join in the summer fun!

See page 7 for a QR code that will take you to our Membership page.



Mud Day! FREE

Saturday, June 28 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!



KIDS PROGRAMS

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS

Camp Details

Ages: 5 to 10

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday
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 - 8

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.



KIDS PROGRAMS continued

MINI-CAMPS

Mini-Camp Details

Ages: 4 to 7

Days & Times:

Monday - Friday
9 am to 12 pm

Cost / day:

\$50 member or
\$65 non-members

What to bring:

Kids bring a refillable water bottle. We provide snacks, but they'll have lunch back at home.

Advance registration is required.

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.

Where: Campers will be greeted upon arrival at the Center building which will be their home base, but they will spend their camp time not only inside our classroom and Discovery Rooms but also outside enjoying our nature park and nature playground.

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



Mess Makers

Program Details

Ages: 3 to 7 with an adult caregiver

Days & Times:

Select Sundays
10 am OR 1 pm

Cost / Class:

\$22 member or
\$27 non-members

What to wear & bring:

Kids should wear playclothes that can get dirty and bring a refillable water bottle.

Advance registration is required.

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.

2025 Dates & Topics:

June 22 - We Dig Dirt!

July 20 - Land Art in the Park

August 17 - Let's Make a Splash!



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

ADULTS

Volunteers
Needed

Park Workdays to Continue

Thursdays 9 to 10:30 am

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, with any questions: erobinson@naturediscoverycenter.org

Tree Identification Walks



FREE

June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6 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 21, July 19, August 16 & Sept 20 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.

FAMILY FUN

Sprinkler Day at the Center



FREE

September 13 from 1 to 3 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.



\$100
for
100
years

Celebrating 100 Years of the Historic Henshaw House

This spring we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Henshaw House with a Centennial Celebration event in Russ Pitman Park. We are grateful to the neighbors, friends, donors and community partners who joined us in honoring the history of the building that has housed our offices, Discovery Rooms, classrooms and nature library since we were founded in 1988.

The celebration isn't over yet! Our "\$100 for 100 years" campaign is still going — and we need your help to reach our goal of 100 donations of \$100 to honor 100 years of the Henshaw House. We're halfway there and need your help to reach our goal!

Funds raised will support our general NDC operations, including continued maintenance of the Henshaw House.



FALL PROGRAM PREVIEW

Curious Kids

3 - 5 yrs old with adult

Tuesdays - 4 to 5:15 pm

Preschoolers and their adult caregivers learn basic science concepts in hands-on classes that encourage and celebrate natural curiosity!

2025 Dates & Topics:

09/09 – Animals With Bones
09/16 – Animals With No Bones
09/23 – Fantastic Fish
09/30 – Aquatic Animals
10/07 – Flying Friends
10/14 – Animal Migrations
10/21 – Owl Be There
10/28 – Nocturnal Animals
11/04 – Fall Nature
11/11 – Meat Eaters
11/18 – Plant Eaters

WEEK OFF

12/02 – Furry Friends
12/09 – Winter Nature
12/16 – Winter Nature Crafts



Naturally Messy

3 - 7 yrs old with adult

Sundays - 10 am or 1 pm

This new program highlights nature's mess makers with classroom lessons about the biology and behavior of animals (and sometimes plants) that are known to make messes. These messes found in nature will serve as inspiration for the messes we make together outside at the pavilions after our lesson.

2025 Dates & Topics

09/14 - Animal Engineers
10/12 - Birds who Body Paint
11/09 - Whose Scat is That?

Mess Makers

3 - 7 yrs old with adult

Sundays - 10 am or 1 pm

Join us for messy sensory play and crafts! This program lets kids get dirty while they create and concoct and make messes parents would rather not have in their house!

2025 Dates & Topics

09/28 - Foam is Fun!
10/26 - Pumpkin Guts
11/30 - Stamp, Stomp, Smash!



Advance registration required. Register online at: naturediscoverycenter.org/kids-programs starting Aug 1

Meet The Animals: Reptiles

Saturday, September 20 at 2 pm

Spend a Saturday afternoon at the Center getting to know our reptiles with up close and personal animal encounters!

Each family friendly Meet the Animal session also includes: an informal discussion about the animal's basic biology and behavior, and a question and answer period with a Staff Naturalist. Come meet our dry, scaly friends the reptiles including our turtles, lizards, snakes, and our baby alligator.

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



School Break Day Camps (5 - 10 yrs old)

We will be offering camps on HISD school holidays, including staff in-service days. Camps will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Details will be on our website and in our Fall Program Guide.

Save the Date for Fall 2025



Pumpkin Patch
FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18 & 19 • 11 AM – 4 PM

Pumpkins • Games • Crafts & More!

1	2 Summer Science Camp Fungi & Flowers M - F 9a - 3p	3	4	5	6	7 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
8 NDC Members Only Summer Splash Day 1 - 3p	9 Summer Science Camp Fungi & Flowers M - F 9a - 3p	10	11 Nature Storytime 4p	12	13	14 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
15	16 Summer Science Camp Animal Adventures M - F 9a - 3p	17	18 Nature Storytime 4p	19	20	21 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
22 Mess Makers (3-7yo) We Dig Dirt! 10a, 1p	23 Summer Science Camp Animal Adventures M - F 9a - 3p	24	25 Nature Storytime 4p	26	27	28 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p Mud Day Celebration 10a
29	30	JUNE				

JULY		1	2	3	4 CENTER CLOSED 4th of July Holiday	5 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
6 NDC Members Only Summer Splash Day 10a - 12p	7 Summer Science Camp Dive into Oceans M - F 9a - 3p	8	9 Nature Storytime 4p	10	11	12 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
13	14 Summer Science Camp Dive into Oceans M - F 9a - 3p	15	16 Nature Storytime 4p	17	18	19 W. Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
20 Mess Makers (3-7yo) Land Art 10a, 1p	21 Summer Science Camp Animals: Acapulco to the Andes M - F 9a - 3p	22	23 Nature Storytime 4p	24	25	26 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
27	28 Summer Science Camp Animals: Acapulco to the Andes M - F 9a - 3p	29	30 Nature Storytime 4p	31		

AUGUST						1	2
							Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
3	4 Summer Science Camp Growing up WILD M - F 9a - 3p	5	6 Nature Storytime 4p	7	8	9	Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
10	11	12	13 Nature Storytime 4p	14	15	16	Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-2p
17 Mess Makers (3-7yo) Let's Make a Splash 10a, 1p	18	19	20 Nature Storytime 4p	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Discovery Rooms Open 1-5:30p					
31			Nature Storytime 4p				

BE A VOLUNTEER

We depend on the generosity and skills of our incredible volunteers to help us care for our animals, nature park, and guests, and to help us achieve our educational mission!

Can You Help Us Care for our Animals?

Animal Care Volunteers Needed (*Training is required.*)

Commitment: 1 day/week, approximately 2 hrs/visit.

Duties: cleaning enclosures, preparing diets, feeding animals, and washing dishes.

To inquire: email Cecilia at csilva@naturediscoverycenter.org

Are You a Former Teacher or Informal Educator?

School Field Trip Docents Needed (*Training is provided.*)

Commitment: 1.5 - 3 hours on select weekday mornings, typically Tuesdays - Fridays, from September - May

Duties: lead small, chaperoned school groups on tours of our Discovery Rooms and on outdoor investigations in the park

To inquire: email Eric at eduran@naturediscoverycenter.org



Do you have other volunteer interests like caring for our park or greeting guests?

Please follow this QR code to apply to join our team of NDC Volunteers.

BE A MEMBER

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



SUMMER '25 PROGRAM GUIDE & FALL PREVIEW



Coffee Loving
Pyrausta Moth



Clover



Mud Day
Jun 28