



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

FALL 2025

PROGRAM GUIDE



Pumpkin Patch
FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 25 & 26 • 11 AM – 4 PM

**Come enjoy a weekend full of fall family fun in nature
benefitting the Nature Discovery Center!**

**Pumpkins • Games • Crafts • Vendors • Food Trucks
Animal Encounters • Photo Ops • Face Painting
Inflatables • Costume Contest & More!**

Keep an eye on our social media and website
for exciting updates we have in store for this
year's event! Here is a sneak peek at a few.

- **The Horse Drawn Wagon Ride is back!**
- **New Activity Wristbands** to provide you
with unlimited game play!
- **Online pre-sales** of wristbands and wagon
ride tickets will reduce time spent in lines.



Help Bring Enchanted Woods to Life!

We're creating a nature-inspired play area and Treehouse Classroom at the Nature Discovery Center—designed to spark imagination and connect kids with the outdoors. We're over halfway to our \$2 million goal—join us in making it happen!

naturediscoverycenter.org/enchantedwoods/

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FALL 2025 DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

Tuesday through Saturday
1 - 5:30 pm

ADMISSION IS FREE

Donations are appreciated. Groups
of six or more children call for an
appointment.

YEARROUND PARK & NATURE PLAY AREA HOURS

Daily 5 am - 9:30 pm


Russ Pitman Park is a City of
Bellaire Park. Dogs, alcohol, and
smoking are prohibited by city
ordinance.

MISSION


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

Nature Discovery Center, Inc. is a
501(c)(3) non-profit organization
funded by charitable contributions,
memberships, and program fees.

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

Advance registration required unless otherwise noted.

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! Curious Kids lessons may incorporate live animals, plants, natural objects, crafts, puppets, stories, and nature walks.

2025 Dates & Topics:

09/09 – Animals With Bones	11/04 – Fall Nature
09/16 – Animals With No Bones	11/11 – Meat Eaters
09/23 – Fantastic Fish	11/18 – Plant Eaters
09/30 – Aquatic Animals	WEEK OFF
10/07 – Flying Friends	12/02 – Furry Friends
10/14 – Animal Migrations	12/09 – Winter Nature
10/21 – Owl Be There	12/16 – Winter Nature Crafts
10/28 – Nocturnal Animals	

Cost/Class: \$15 member / \$20 non-member



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 concoctions and make art messes parents would rather not have in their house!

2025 Dates & Topics:

09/28 - Foam is Fun!
11/02 - Pumpkin Guts
11/30 - Stamp, Stomp, Smash!



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

Fall 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 as they play games, create nature crafts, encounter live animals, explore the park and more in our science and nature themed day camps.

Camps run from 9 am to 3 pm. We do not provide pre or post camp care.

2025 Dates & Topics:

10/03 - Take Flight: Bird Migration
11/24 - Seasons Change: Autumn Nature
11/25 - Furry & Fuzzy: Mammals


Cost: \$70 member / \$85 non-member per day

Nature Story Time **FREE**

Wednesdays at 4 pm

Stories, simple crafts, specimens and more for preschoolers and their caregivers.

Please keep your eye on Facebook or Instagram for Nature Story Time schedule updates.

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

Homeschool Classes (6 - 12 yr olds)

Scheduled Tuesdays - Saturdays between 10 am and 4 pm

Homeschoolers, are you looking for science and nature programs to enrich your students' fall semester? Homeschool classes are available for homeschool groups ages 6 to 12 on a variety of topics in the natural or biological sciences. Head Naturalist and Educator Eric Duran is willing to work with your homeschool group to offer programs that meet your science curriculum needs in specific content areas.

These 1.5 hour classes include a mix of classroom time, outside exploration, live animal time, art craft, and nature games. You can choose individual classes a la carte or design a multi-class series that spans the fall semester.

Homeschool Class Topics:

- Living Things
- Plants
- Trees
- Edible Wild Plants
- Mushrooms & other Fungi
- Animals
- Native Texas Animals
- Vertebrates
- Invertebrates
- Fish
- Aquatic Animals
- Snakes
- Turtles
- Birds
- Mammals
- Autumn, Winter, or Spring Nature
- Habitats
- Food Webs

Topics Suggested for Spring / early Fall

- Flowers
- Insects
- Butterflies
- Frogs & other Amphibians
- Reptiles

Cost/Class: \$15/student

Class size: 8 to 15 kids total

To inquire about scheduling, please fill out the **Homeschool Program Inquiry Form** available on our website:
<https://naturediscoverycenter.org/activities/homeschool-nature-programs/>



Sprinkler Day at the Center FREE

Saturday, September 13 from 1 to 3 pm

School may have started, but here in Texas our summer heat is not quite over yet. Bring your children to the Center to cool off with a favorite summer passtime - 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 a refreshing morning of water play!

Kids should wear their bathing suit and should bring a towel and a change of clothes. Some kids may prefer wearing water shoes on wet grass. Bring water bottles to stay hydrated!



Advance registration is required for the following family programs. 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

Saturday, September 20 at 2 pm - Reptile Rendezvous

Saturday, November 15 at 2 pm - Furry Friends: 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 talk about the animal's basic biology, a Q/A period with one of our Staff Naturalists.

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



Advance registration required unless otherwise noted.

Fall Nature Hike

Saturday, October 11 at 2 pm

Fall is a wonderful time to explore the outdoors in Houston. Birds are migrating. Fall wildflowers are blooming. Butterflies are on the wing in huge numbers. Join us for a guided nature walk through our gorgeous park.

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



Family Night Hike: Moth Night

for adults & kids ages 4 & up with an adult caregiver

Friday, October 17 from 8 - 9:30 pm

Join us for a fun family outing in the park... at night. We will explore the park and seek out all kinds of nocturnal animals. For the first time at the nature center, you and your family will help us conduct some real science. We will set up a moth trap (a white sheet with a light), count, photograph, and survey as many moths (and other nocturnal insects) as we can! This citizen science project should be lots of fun!

Cost: \$10 member / \$12 non-member



Park Explorer Pack Loaner Backpack Program

PERFECT
FOR
FAMILIES!

We've loaded 5 themed loaner backpacks up with tools, educational resources, and fun activities that you can use to create adventure out on our trails. See website for details of pack contents and activities.

Themes: Birds, Insects & Invertebrates, Pond Life, Trees, Wildflowers & Pollinators

Backpack Program Details

Check Out/In: at the NDC front reception desk during our Discovery Room Open Hours

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

Limitations: Only ONE Park Explorer Pack may be checked out per family at a time. *Additional activity sheets can be provided for siblings.*



Bingo at *Betsy's* in Evelyn's Park

Wednesday, September 3
from 6 - 8 pm

Wednesday, October 15
from 6 - 8 pm

Bring the family out to Betsy's for a Bingo Night benefit! Winners get a free drink or ice cream from Betsy's.

Cost: \$1 per bingo card; all proceeds go directly to the Nature Discovery Center.

Location: Betsy's, 4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

HANA & ARTHUR GINZBARG NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER

TWILIGHT GALA 2025

Rooted in Gratitude

November 21, 2025 The Junior League of Houston

CHAIRS - CINDY SIEGEL & KRISTI COFFEY

30th Annual Twilight Gala

Grab your tickets today for the Nature Discovery Center's **30th Annual Twilight Gala**, "Rooted in Gratitude"—a celebration of the hands that planted our mission and the hearts that carry it forward on **Friday, November 21, 2025 from 6 to 10 pm** at the **Junior League of Houston**.

We're thrilled to announce that this year's event will be chaired by **Cindy Siegel** and **Kristi Coffey**, two longtime friends and supporters of NDC.

Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing, and celebration in support of nature education, park stewardship, and hands-on discovery that inspires thousands of families each year.

Reserve your tickets:



<https://givebutter.com/c/NDCTwilight25>

We can't wait to celebrate this milestone event with you!

Park Workday Volunteers Needed

Thursdays from 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. Bring a refillable water bottle, dress for the weather, and expect to get a little dirty!

Contact Elzora, our Park Steward, with any questions: erobinson@naturediscoverycenter.org

Tree Identification Walks FREE

Saturdays, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 at 10 am

Join Master Naturalist and tree lover Jim McKee, for his monthly Tree Walks to discover more about some of the many species of trees that live in Russ Pitman Park. In addition to helping you learn how to identify trees, Jim is always happy to share his knowledge about trees and some interesting historical facts about the trees in our park.

Willow Waterhole

Monthly Bird Survey FREE

Saturdays, September 20 at 7:30 am, & October 18 & November 15 at 8 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.



Upcoming Bird Walks FREE

Join us for a morning stroll in the park to enjoy our resident and migrant birds this fall and winter. You are welcome to bring a picnic breakfast to enjoy at the pavilions before these morning walks. Meet us on the front porch or out in the park.

Weekly Birding After Breakfast


Wednesdays, September 17 - November 5
from 8:30 am to 10:00 am (depending on the birds)

Monthly Winter Bird Walks

Wednesdays, TENTATIVE DATES - check back for updates
- December 3, January 7, & February 4
from 8:30 am to 10:00 am (depending on the birds)

	1	2 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	3 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Nature Storytime 4p Bingo @ Betsy's 6-8p	4 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	5 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	6 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Tree ID Walk 10a
7	8	9 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Animals with Bones 4p	10 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Nature Storytime 4p	11 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	12 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	13 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Sprinkler Day 1 - 3p
14 NM: Animal Engineers 10a, 1p	15	16 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Animals with no Bones 4p	17 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	18 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	19 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	20 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7:30a Meet the Animals 2p 
21	22	23 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Fantastic Fish 4p	24 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	25 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	26 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	27 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p  NDC Member Event 1 - 3p
28 MM: Foam is Fun 10a, 1p	29	30 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Aquatic Animals 4p	SEPTEMBER			

OCTOBER			1 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	2 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	3 Fall Day Camp Bird Migration 9a - 3p	4 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Tree ID Walk 10a
5	6	7 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Flying Friends 4p	8 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	9 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	10 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	11 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Fall Nature Hike 2p
12 NM: Birds Who Body Paint 10a, 1p	13	14 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Animal Migrations 4p	15 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p Bingo @ Betsy's 6-8p	16 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	17 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Family Night Hike: Moth Night 8p	18 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a
19	20	21 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Owl Be There 4p	22 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	23	24	25 Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival 11a - 4p 
26 Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival 11a - 4p 	27	28 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Nocturnal Animals 4p	29 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	30 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	31 Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	

NOVEMBER						1	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Tree ID Walk 10a
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Daylight Savings Time Ends 2a MM: Pumpkin Guts 10a, 1p		Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Fall Nature 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Birdwalk (BAB) 8a Nature Storytime 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
NM: Whose Scat is That? 10a, 1p		Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Meat Eaters 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Nature Storytime 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 8a Meet the Animals 2p 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p CK: Plant Eaters 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p Nature Storytime 4p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	30th Annual TWILIGHT GALA <i>Rooted in Gratitude</i> 6-10 pm	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	Fall Break Camp Autumn Nature 9a - 3p	Fall Break Camp Mammals 9a - 3p		Thanksgiving Holiday CENTER CLOSED	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	Discovery Rooms 1 - 5:30p	
MM: Stamp, Stomp, Smash 10a, 1p							

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work shifts for our annual fall festival on **Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26**. Shifts run **10 am - 2 pm and 1 to 5 pm**. We are accepting both individuals and groups of volunteers to set up and run festival games, crafts, and other event activities as well as help us break down and clean up all event areas.

To volunteer as an individual, sign up through our Better Impact Volunteer Site accessible via our website naturediscoverycenter.org/volunteer/

To sign up your group of volunteers, please contact NDC Executive Director Meredith Wheeler directly via email at mwheeler@naturediscoverycenter.org.

Volunteers are expected to arrive on time for volunteer check-in before their shift, and to work their entire shifts.

Animal Care Assistants

Volunteers ages 15+ are needed to work **weekly Animal Care shifts**. Trained volunteers tend to the dietary and enrichment needs of our Animal Ambassadors and help keep their enclosures clean and safe. If you are interested, email Cecilia at csilva@naturediscoverycenter.org.

SPECIAL WINTER DATES

Annual NDC Member Meeting

Tuesday, December 2 from 7 to 9 pm

Special Winter Nature Story Time

Wednesday, December 10 from 4 to 5 pm

Cocoa and cookies, stories, live animals, and winter crafts!

Winter Holiday Market

Saturday, December 6

Browse vendor stalls for the perfect holiday gifts for nature lovers while your kids make winter nature crafts.

Gingerbread Habitats

Sunday, December 14 from 1 to 3 pm

Come learn about woodland animal habitats as you create an edible winter wonderland for gingerbread animals.





HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

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7112 NEWCASTLE ST
BELLAIRE, TX 77401



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PROGRAM GUIDE

Activity Schedule
& Special Events



Pumpkin
Patch
Fall
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Oct 25 & 26

