



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center

SUMMER 2026

PROGRAM GUIDE

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SUMMER 2026 DISCOVERY ROOM HOURS

Saturday & Sunday
10 am - 3 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

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 pm presentation by a kid-friendly speaker. We wrap things up at 8 pm.

June 17 - Reptile Rendezvous

July 8 - Furry & Fuzzy Friends

August 19 - Creepy Crawlies: Insects & Spiders

Cost: \$12/person (ages 3+, including adults, children must be accompanied by an adult)

Advance registration is required.



Mud Day! **FREE**

Saturday, June 27 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!



NEW THIS YEAR: RSVP to attend Mud Day via the link under Family Programs on our website and please check in upon arrival.

KIDS PROGRAMS

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS



Camp Details

Ages: 5 to 10

Days & Times:
Monday - Friday
9 am to 3 pm

Cost / week:
\$350 member or
\$400 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.**

WL = Wait List Status

*Scan to secure
your spots!*



WHO'S HUNGRY? | Week 1: June 1 - 5 & Week 7 Jul 20 - 24

Dig into the wild world of animal diets as you explore what animals eat, how their teeth and senses help them survive, and how food chains, food webs, and digestion all connect. Through hands-on activities like owl pellet dissections, feeding Ambassador Animals, and making "edible poop," this camp delivers the perfect mix of curiosity, discovery, and gross fun!

ANIMAL HOMES & HABITATS | Week 2: June 8 - 12 & Week 8 Jul 27 - 31

Pack your curiosity and head into the park to explore the amazing places animals live and the clever ways they build their homes through hands-on field investigations, creative projects, and live animal care. From building nests and dams with natural materials to maintaining ambassador animal enclosures and searching for hidden habitats, this camp is all about exploring, creating, and caring for the incredible spaces animals call home.

TREE-MENDOUS FOREST FUN | Week 3: June 15 - 19 & Week 9: Aug 3 - 7

Step into a world of wonder beneath the trees as you explore forests from around the globe through live animal encounters, nature park adventures, and hands-on discovery. From planting a native Texas tree and creating bird feeders to playing "tree factory" and counting growth rings on a real tree cookie, this camp is packed with tree-mendous fun and learning.

RIDICULOUSLY COOL REPTILES | Week 4: **WL** & Week 10: Aug 10 - 14

Slither or crawl into a week of scaly fun as you explore the biology, behavior, and amazing adaptations of snakes, lizards, turtles, alligators, and more through hands-on activities and up-close reptile encounters. From searching for wild reptiles and creating reptile-inspired crafts to learning safe handling techniques and testing your skills in snake-style eating challenges, this camp is packed with unforgettable adventures and seriously cool fun.

WET & WILD | Week 5: **WL** & Week 11: Aug 17 - 21

Make a splash in this hands-on camp as you explore the world of water through pond studies at Cypress Pond, aquatic animal encounters, and caring for our aquatic animal ambassadors. With wet and wild games, water relays, and plenty of splishing and splashing during Sprinkler Day, this camp is packed with adventure, discovery, and soak-worthy fun.

ARTFULLY MESSY | Week 6: **WL**

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.

Registration

Advance registration is required.

Scan to join
in the fun!



INCREDIBLE INSECTS | August 25

Let's explore the amazingly diverse world of insects! You'll search for and observe insects in our nature park, touch live insects in our Discovery Rooms, and learn what makes insects so cool in an interactive lesson. And it wouldn't be a complete camp experience without a chance to make a fun insect-themed craft to take home.



FABULOUS FISH | August 26

Dive into this mini-camp to discover fabulous fish! You'll find out what makes a fish a fish, dip net for fish in our ponds, and watch fish swim, breathe, and eat in our aquaria. You'll also create beautiful Japanese fish prints (an artform called Gyotaku) to take home. This short and sweet camp experience will be fin-tastic!

AWESOME AMPHIBIANS | August 27

Jump into the amazing world of amphibians with us! You'll learn about their special life cycles, meet local frogs and toads, go on a tadpole hunt at the pond, and practice fun frog and toad calls. Crafts and active games will help you learn what makes amphibians so incredibly cool.



SENSATIONAL SPIDERS | August 28

In this mini-camp you'll sneak up on spiders under logs and in the bushes of our nature park. Look carefully and you may find delicate spider webs that spiders have left behind. You'll learn about spider body parts and how to tell spiders apart from other invertebrates in an interactive lesson before making super sensational spider crafts.

KIDS PROGRAMS

Summer Pollywogs (0 - 2 yrs old with adult)

Select Saturdays and Sundays at 10 am

Experience nature with your little one (ages 0 to 2)! Through a mix of stories, live animal encounters, sensory play, trail exploration, and more, we hope to ignite a lifelong love of the outdoors in your little pollywogs! While some activities will be structured, our sessions will also incorporate time for unstructured experiences that are critical in developing curious kids. *See our website for additional program description.*

Jun 6 & 7
Water Play

Jul 11 & 12
Mud, Mud,
Glorious Mud!

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



Summer Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

Select Saturdays and Sundays at 10 am


Messy, sensory play is an important part of child development. Together with NDC staff and volunteers, you will explore and create with messy materials, making works of ephemeral and take-home art as well as just making good old messy fun. After we make messes together, you'll go home **relatively** clean!

Jun 13 & 14
Things that Ooze

Jul 18 & 19
Wet Messes

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



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

FAMILY FUN

Sprinkler Day at the Center



FREE

September 19 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 will be set up with sprinklers, kiddie pools, 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.

TEENS & ADULTS

Summer Park Workdays

Adults: Saturdays from 9 - 10:30 am

Teens: Sundays in 3 shifts

9 - 11 am, 11 am - 1 pm, 1 - 3 pm



Help us plant natives, remove invasives, water new plants, maintain park trails, and more! No experience necessary. Elzora will guide you. Dress for the weather and to get dirty! Sign up on our Volunteer Page. ***New volunteers, email Elzora to schedule a short orientation before signing up.***

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

Tree Identification Walks



FREE

June 6, August 1, September 5 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.



Pollywogs (0 - 2 yrs old with adult)

Select Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 am

Experience nature with your little one! Through a mix of stories, live animal encounters, sensory play, trail exploration, and more, we hope to ignite a lifelong love of the outdoors in your little pollywogs! While some activities will be structured, our sessions will also incorporate time for unstructured experiences that are critical in developing curious kids. *See our website for additional program description.*

September 14 & 17 – Topic TBA
October 12 & 15 – Nocturnal Animals
November 16 & 19 - Fall Nature Fun

Cost/Class: \$8 member / \$12 non-member



Naturally Messy (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

Select Sundays - 10 am

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.

October 4 - Seed Dispersal
November 8 - Leaf Litter

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

Mess Makers (3 - 7 yrs old with adult)

Select 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!

September 20 - Berry Juice & Grass Stains
October 25 - Squash Soup
November 22 - Land Art & Loose Parts

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

FALL EVENTS



October 17 & 18 | 11 am - 4 pm
Pumpkins • Games • Crafts & More!

Enchanted Woods Groundbreaking To Be Announced

Be on the lookout for a fall event celebrating the much anticipated groundbreaking for the Enchanted Woods Play Space and Cottage Classroom! To learn more about the Enchanted Woods Project or to be part of the magic by honoring your family with a paver or plank, scan the QR Code. Your donation will help us create a place where children can play, learn, and grow.



Twilight Gala at the Junior League of Houston November 20 | 6 - 10 pm

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual gala in support of our mission to ignite lifelong curiosity, understanding, and respect for nature through education.

	1 Summer Science Camp Who's Hungry? M - F 9a - 3p	2	3	4	5	6 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Pollywogs (0-2yo) Water Play 10a
7 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Pollywogs (0-2yo) Water Play 10a	8 Summer Science Camp Homes & Habitats M - F 9a - 3p	9	10 Nature Storytime 4p	11	12	13 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Mess Makers (3-7yo) Things that Ooze10a
14 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Mess Makers (3-7yo) Things that Ooze10a	15 Summer Science Camp Tree-mendous Forest Fun M - F 9a - 3p	16	17 Nature Storytime 4p Family Nature Night Reptiles 6:30p	18	19	20 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p
21 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Father's Day	22 Summer Science Camp Ridiculously Cool Reptiles M - F 9a - 3p	23	24 Nature Storytime 4p	25	26	27 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Mud Day Celebration 10a
28 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p	29 Summer Science Camp Wet & Wild M - F 9a - 3p	30	JUNE			

JULY			1	2	3	4 CENTER CLOSED 4th of July Holiday
5 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p	6	7	8 Nature Storytime 4p Family Nature Night Reptiles 6:30p	9	10	11 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p Pollywogs (0-2yo) Mud 10a
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<h1>AUGUST</h1>						1 Tree ID Walk 10a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p
2 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p	3 Summer Science Camp Tree-mendous Forest Fun M - F 9a - 3p	4	5 Nature Storytime 4p	6	7	8 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p
9 Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p	10 Summer Science Camp Ridiculously Cool Reptiles M - F 9a - 3p	11	12 Nature Storytime 4p	13	14	15 Willow Waterhole Bird Survey 7a Discovery Rooms Open 10a-3p
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23	24	25 Mini Camp: Insects 9a - 12n	26 Mini Camp: Fish 9a - 12n	27 Mini Camp: Amphibians 9a - 12n	28 Mini Camp: Spiders 9a - 12n	29
30	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 Eric at eduran@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
- Invites to Members-only events
- Our Quarterly Program Guide sent via email





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BELLAIRE, TX 77401



**SUMMER '26
PROGRAM GUIDE
& FALL PREVIEW**

Enchanted Woods Nature Play Space & Cottage Classroom Groundbreaking Fall 2026!



Help us build
something magical!