



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

Robinson Nature Center
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter
410-313-0400



Hello Home School Families!

Welcome to the Spring 2020 season of Robinson Nature Center's Home School classes. Below are details about spring classes, a preview of next year's classes as well as a short survey through which you can share your feedback.

- Your child is signed up for the **Spring 2020 Thursday** class for 9-12 year olds. Class will occur on the first Thursday of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Class dates are **Mar 5, Apr 2 and May 7**. Before arriving on **Mar 5**, please fill out a [Participant Information Form](#) for your child. This form is required even if you choose to stay with your child during class.
- On the back of the Participant Information Form you will find our [Code of Conduct](#). This generally covers the behaviors that we expect during class to ensure the best possible educational experience for all students. Please take a moment to discuss the Code of Conduct with your child prior to class and sign at the bottom of the page.
- All information about class, as well as certificates of completion, will be posted to our website so that you may access it as you need it. Please go to <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/rnhomeschoolmaterials> to access the materials.
- We will be continuing to offer a [Home School Class Google Calendar](#). If you use Google calendar, you can add your child's classes to your personal Google calendar. We highly recommend you add these class dates to your own calendar as reminders are not sent out prior to each class.

How will class work?

If you've never participated in our Home School classes before, here's a quick overview of how we expect class to go, and a couple reminders about things that may have changed from last year.

- 1. Sign-In/Sign-Out** – You must walk your child to class each month and sign them in. At the end of class, you must also sign your child out (even if you stay with your child). If you have children in other classes, you must sign each of your children in and out of class. This is a requirement and ensures your child is safely under the care of an adult when departing from class.
- 2. Parent options** - While your child is in class, you're welcome to sit in on the class, leave the Nature Center and return for pick-up at 4:00 PM, or relax, socialize and network with other parents in our "Parent Lounge". We set up the Parent Lounge in the south end of the Auditorium. The lounge is an informal area with tables and chairs where parents can catch up with each other, and still be close to your children if you want to check in on class. The lounge opens directly into the room for the pre-homeschool (4-5 year old) class. We generally put out some small games or blocks for younger siblings, books and literature pertaining to the class topic, and sometimes information about upcoming programs or opportunities.

3. **Siblings** - Younger siblings under the age of 4 years are welcome to join an older sibling's class, but parents must monitor them at all times and remove them if they become disruptive so that students can concentrate. Out of fairness to enrolled participants, younger siblings are welcome to observe, but they may not participate in class activities.
4. **Special accommodations/severe allergies** – If your child requires any special accommodations or severe allergies we need to be aware of, please call Tracey Gelner at 410-313-0413 as soon as possible so we can better understand your child's needs. For Howard County residents, the Howard County Recreation & Parks Department has recently updated its inclusion process for residents requesting special accommodations. Please visit the following link to provide information about your child's needs/complete your accommodation request.
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Therapeutic-Rec>.

Survey for Home School Families

- We would love to gather your feedback regarding your children's experiences in the home school classes. To take the short, anonymous 6-question survey, please go to:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGY7STM>

Home School 2020-2021 Classes

- We are excited for next year's 2020-2021 classes. Registration for classes will open on June 4, 2020 for Howard County residents and on June 11, 2020 for non-residents.
- To see more information about the topics being covered in 2020-2021, [click here](#) for the home school 2020-2021 flyer.
- Please note, the price per season has increased from \$30 per child to \$36 per child for Sept 2020-May 2021 classes. This year, we brought in several external resources based on feedback from the 2018 survey including Scales & Tales bird presentations and dissection activities. We focused on hands-on activities and purchased additional materials to help further engagement in classes. The price increase for the 2020-2021 classes will help ensure we can continue to bring in external resources and purchase new materials to make classes as engaging as possible.
- Should you have any questions, concerns or feedback about these changes, please contact our Program Manager, Meagan Downey at mdowney@howardcountymd.gov.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's class please contact us Wednesday through Sunday by email or phone. Please note, the Center is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and we will not be able to respond to inquiries on these days. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 5th!

Tracey Gelner
Environmental Educator
tgelner@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0413

Jessie King
Environmental Educator
jeking@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0502