



Howard County  
RECREATION & PARKS

Robinson Nature Center  
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044  
[www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter)  
410-313-0400



Hello Home School Families!

We wanted to take the time to welcome you all to the Winter season of Robinson Nature Center's Home School class (age 9-13), and give you some information about what to expect for the classes and workshops throughout the season.

- Your child's class are scheduled to occur on the **first Friday** of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Please note, this winter, the February class will occur on the second Friday of the month. Classes will be held on **December 7, 2018, January 4, and February 8, 2019**. Before arriving on Dec 7, 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/rnchomeschoolmaterials> to access the materials.
- New this year, due to requests by parents, we have added a [Home School Class & Workshop 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. Home School Seasonal Workshop** – We've had some questions from parents about the new seasonal format of the workshop and what to expect. The new seasonal workshop is a special opportunity for you and your child to celebrate their learning with other students in their class at the end of each season. Staff will create fun activities based on the season's themes, and though activities are designed to be self-guided, teachers from each of the home school classes will be available. If your child is aging into a new class, these workshops are a great opportunity to meet teachers and students from the class they will be aging into. The workshops do require a separate sign up from classes, so if you are interested in participating, please sign up by [clicking here](#).

**\*\*Please wear closed-toe shoes and dress for the weather. We recommend dressing in layers and wearing old tennis shoes. The trail can be muddy if it has recently rained.\*\***

### **Meet the Teachers!**

The teachers for this year's 9-13 year-old Home School classes will be Kaitlyn Murphy and Monica Horan. We're very much looking forward to meeting and working with all of you this year! Here is a little bit of information about each of the educators so that you can get to know us before class.

#### **Meet Mrs. Monica**

I am very excited to be your child's teacher here at Robinson Nature Center! I have been here since we opened, almost 7 years ago. I have been an educator for 14 years now. I have worked with preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, and adult students in various capacities in both formal and informal settings. I was a high school teacher for 5 years, a Biologist for MD Department of Natural Resources for 2 years, and a stay at home mom for 10 years. I enjoy watching animals in their natural habitats, cooking, baking & eating food, going on adventures with my two daughters & husband, hanging out at my backyard pond with my two cats, and listening to Zac Brown Band! I particularly love frogs, chipmunks, and macroinvertebrates!

#### **Meet Ms. Kaitlyn**

I am excited to have a chance to meet all of you this year for the homeschool program! I have been an educator here at Robinson Nature Center since June of 2017. I graduated from Saint Francis University in 2017 with a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies. I have worked with children in a wide variety of capacities for several years now. This experience includes volunteer positions, teaching swim lessons, and working as a camp counselor at a sleep away camp. I can often be found

baking, gardening, beekeeping, sewing, or hiking! I look forward to working with the 9 to 13 year olds for homeschool this year!

If you have any questions or concerns 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 December 7!

Monica Horan  
Environmental Educator  
[mhoran@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mhoran@howardcountymd.gov)  
410-313-0413

Kaitlyn Murphy  
Environmental Educator  
[kmurphy@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kmurphy@howardcountymd.gov)  
410-313-0502