

# JAMES & ANNE Robinson NATURE CENTER



**Howard  
County**

RECREATION & PARKS



**2018  
WINTER  
PROGRAMS**

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## How to Register

Online: [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNC/programs](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNC/programs)

Phone: 410-313-0400  
(9am-5 pm, W-Sa; Noon-5pm, Su)

Fax: 410-313-4660

TTY: 410-313-4665

Mail: Howard County Recreation & Parks  
7120 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, MD 21046

Walk-in: Robinson Nature Center  
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia  
(9am-5pm, W-Sa; Noon-5pm, Su)

## Payment Information

Program fees are payable by check or money order made out to the Howard County Director of Finance. (We also accept American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA.)

All events and programs take place at Robinson Nature Center unless otherwise noted.



Create your own holiday decorations to display at home during our Holiday Decorating Workshops.

## Special Events

### December

#### NEW! Holiday Decorating Workshops

Design and create your own holiday decorations this year out of sustainably-harvested evergreens and other natural materials. Workshops not only teach participants how to create decorations, but are social celebrations of the season with cider, music and light snacks. Come with a friend or family members! Morning and afternoon workshops are offered. Catered lunch option available. Sign up for the full day, or feel free to attend just one session. As materials must be harvested in advance and seating is limited, **you must register by December 1 to participate.** Info: 410-313-0400.

12 yrs +

#### Holiday Centerpiece

Using a variety of freshly-harvested evergreens, create a beautiful oasis centerpiece adorned with natural materials for your table or mantle. Price is per centerpiece (not per person).

RP4861.501 Dec 9 10am-noon Sa \$45

RP4861.502 Dec 9 1-3pm Sa \$45

#### Festive Holiday Display on Wood

Paint a festive holiday display on natural wood pieces. This accent piece — featuring your choice of snowmen, reindeer or Santa — is perfect for both indoor and outdoor display! Price is per display (not per person).

RP4861.521 Dec 9 10am-noon Sa \$30

#### Catered Lunch and Optional Nature Walk

Make a day out of it! Enjoy a catered lunch featuring a baked potato bar with all the fixin's, salad and dessert. For those who want a chance to stretch their legs, a short, after-lunch guided nature walk along the trails is included. Price is per person.

RP4861.531 Dec 9 Noon-1pm Sa \$15

#### Wreath-Making

Create your own 12-inch wreath using freshly-harvested evergreens for your front door! Price is per wreath (not per person).

RP4861.541 Dec 9 1-3pm Sa \$40



Meet Santa after enjoying "Reindeer games" at Deer Santa.

## Deer Santa

Santa's reindeer have many skills. Delight in an afternoon of "Reindeer games" that test your skills against those of our four-legged friends in this family-friendly, self-guided adventure. Create holiday crafts, enjoy festive snacks, join us for an optional guided winter walk in the woods, and get a photo with Santa! All adults and children over the age of 1 year must be registered to participate. No online registration. Registration/Info: [www.howardcountymd.gov/DeerSanta](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DeerSanta) or 410-313-0400.

All ages \$15, child (over 1 year); \$7, adult; Free, under 1 year  
 \*\$2 off each individual's registration for Robinson Nature Center members.

RP4871.501 Robinson Nature Ctr Dec 10 Noon-4pm Su

*"Love the different activities each year.  
 Very fun, REALLY enjoyed."*

- Robinson Nature Center Deer Santa Participant



Come in from the cold to meet "Frozen" characters, view liquid nitrogen experiments and make your own ice cream sandwich at Frozen Fest.

## January

### Frozen Fest

Robinson puts the "cool" in winter with this fun, family-oriented festival. If you and your family have cabin fever, come explore our "Snowball Ally" and all things frozen through fun experiments. Enjoy an ice cream sandwich bar and see an ice-sculpting demo. Create tracks in the snow, and take guided winter hikes along the trails. Check out the cold-blooded creatures that live at the nature center through live animal presentations. Get cozy while watching a movie in the NatureSphere full-dome theater. Meet "frozen" costumed-characters courtesy of the Drama Learning Ctr. Make a fun, winter craft to take home and chase the winter blues away. Pre-register to secure your family's spot. (Inclement weather date is January 28.)

All ages \$7, annual pass holder; \$10, nonmember;  
 Free, 0-3 yrs

RP4828.601 Jan 21 Noon-4:30pm Su



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Grab some friends, or your sweetheart, to hand-roll chocolate truffles and sample wine while learning about the plants from which these treats are derived.

## February

### Valentine's Day Truffle-Making & Wine-Tasting

Join us for a unique experience at the Robinson Nature Center just in time for Valentine's Day! Celebrate early with a friend or your sweetheart, or come to learn the art of hand-rolling delectable chocolate truffles while discovering more about the plant from which chocolate is made. Enjoy tastings from local winery, Liganore Vineyards, and learn about the sustainable practices used in their business. Each person samples 6 wines and leaves with eight hand-rolled truffles. Special thanks to our partner, Whole Foods, for its help making this event a success.

21 yrs +

RP4847.601 Feb 10 1-3pm Sa \$27

RP4847.602 Feb 10 4-6pm Sa \$27

***I loved experiencing new things with friends. Excellent demonstrations!***

*- Robinson Nature Center Valentine's Day Truffle-Making & Wine-Tasting Participant*

## NEW! Saturday Night Out

Don't decide between a show, getting dessert or going on a hike for your Saturday night plans. Join us for all three at the Robinson Nature Center! Back by popular demand, Baltimore Improv group performs live – this time, inspired by outer space oddities. Take a guided night hike under winter constellations and warm up with a cozy planetarium show. Enjoy a gourmet s'more bar and hot cider. Buy your tickets early for pre-sale pricing. Space is limited, preregister to secure your spot. (Inclement weather date: March 10.)

18 yrs + Sa \$29, pre-sale: \$35, after Feb 21

RP4874.621 Feb 24 8-10pm

## March

### NEW! A to Z Nature Trail Opening

Come join us as we cut the ribbon on our new A to Z nature trail. The trail was created to honor the legacy of Anne Robinson, who loved both reading and the outdoors. This is a collaboration between Robinson Nature Center, the Howard County Library System, community members, and the HCRP's Recreational Licensed Childcare. The trail contains artwork inspired by 26 stories. The books are available to check out through the library. Additional artwork submitted for the trail will be on display in the Nature Center's lobby. Thanks to WR Grace and the Robinson Foundation for their sponsorship of the trail and the event.

All ages

RP4828.601 Mar 14 1pm W Free



Don't miss out on a chance to celebrate spring at our popular annual Spring Eggstravaganza for Tots!

## Spring Eggstravaganza for Tots

Hop on down for a tot-friendly adventure through indoor exhibits and paved portions of the trail (weather-permitting). Together, your family enjoys self-guided activities that include spring-themed crafts, music, and a miniature egg hunt. Meet and learn about some amazing bunnies (available for adoption) with the rescue organization Friends of Rabbits! To help ease parking congestion and crowding, we ask that families preregister for one of the following program times and arrive promptly. Program lasts approximately an hour. All adults and children (1 yrs +) must register. No online registration, call 410-313-0400 or register in person at the center.

1 yrs +	Mar 25	Su	\$6
RP4858.701	9:30-10:30am		
RP4858.702	9:40-10:40am		
RP4858.703	9:50-10:50am		
RP4858.704	10-11am		
RP4858.705	10:10-11:10am		
RP4858.706	10:20-11:20am		
RP4858.707	10:30-11:30am		
RP4858.708	10:40-11:40am		
RP4858.709	10:50-11:50am		
RP4858.710	11-noon		
RP4858.711	11:10am-12:10pm		

## Astronomy & Planetarium

- Planetarium programs are held in the NatureSphere, a digital planetarium and dome-style movie theater.
- For planetarium shows, arrive 15 minutes prior to the show time to be seated. Due to dark conditions, we cannot seat you during the show.
- Sensory-friendly accommodations are available for all planetarium programs upon request. To make a request, contact the Robinson Nature Center no later than one week in advance of the program.
- Previews of planetarium films: [www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCNatureSphereFeatures](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCNatureSphereFeatures).
- Listed by earliest start date.
- Fee/price is per person.
- Registration/Info: 410-313-0400.

### Family Fridays Under the Dome

Treat your family to unique evenings at the Robinson Nature Center's NatureSphere planetarium. Each program features a full-dome movie preceded by a themed, family-friendly planetarium presentation. See below for show themes, films and age recommendations. No late seating.

*NEW! Just Passing Through* – Learn about meteorites and comets; enjoy the full-dome movie, "Passport". There will be a special opportunity after the show to hold and learn about meteorites that traveled through space and landed here on earth.

RP4801.601 7 yrs + Jan 5 6:30-7:30pm F \$6

*NEW! Many Moons* – Take a closer look at the moons in our solar system, and enjoy the full-dome movie, "Back to the Moon for Good". There will be a special opportunity after the show to view real lunar samples collected during the Apollo missions.

RP4801.602 7 yrs + Feb 2 6:30-7:30pm F \$6

*NEW! Spring Stars* – Learn about the stars and constellations that dominate the spring sky and their place in historical myths and events. Enjoy the full-dome movie, "Earth, Moon & Sun". Feel free to join us after the show for a telescope viewing demo.

RP4801.603 5 yrs + Mar 2 6:30-7:30pm F \$6

To register for a class or event, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/rap](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap) or call 410-313-0400.



Bring the whole gang to a full-dome planetarium movie at Family Fridays Under the Dome.

## Friday Late Nights in the NatureSphere

Treat your partner or friends to a unique Friday night experience of top notch astronomy and entertainment at the Robinson Nature Center. This program is held in the Naturesphere planetarium and features a full-dome movie preceded by an adult-level planetarium presentation about current happenings in our night sky and space science. No late seating.

18 yrs + 8-9pm F \$6

**Astronomy, 3,000 years of Stargazing** – arrive early to view meteorites

RP4800.601 Jan 5

**Impact!** – arrive early to view lunar samples

RP4800.602 Feb 2

**Two Pieces of Glass** – arrive early for a telescope viewing demo

RP4800.634 Mar 2

## Lil' Stars (Parent/Child)

Let your little one discover outer space through views of the stars and planets, stories, crafts and song. Give your child a special nighttime experience during the day! Each month we focus on a different theme – from the colors of stars, to the stories behind a constellation, to the seasonal changes in the sky. Preregister to secure your seats.

3-8 yrs w/parent \$3 a person w/ admission or annual pass

### NEW! Bear's Shadow

RP4802.601 Jan 13 10:30-11am Sa

RP4802.602 Jan 27 10:30-11am Sa

### NEW! Super-Duper Stars

RP4802.603 Feb 10 10:30-11am Sa

RP4802.604 Feb 24 10:30-11am Sa

### Stellar Stretching

RP4802.605 Mar 10 10:30-11am Sa

RP4802.606 Mar 24 10:30-11am Sa



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Discover the wonders of outer space with your little one at Lil' Stars.

## Family & Parent/Child

- Programs in this section require an adult to register with their child and accompany them at all times.
- Registration/Info: 410-313-0400.

### Deer Santa *Page 3*

### First Saturday Discovery Days

Join us for the first Saturday of the month as we introduce a special nature theme through an engaging story. Pick up your free ticket at the front desk. Each month's theme is highlighted for the remainder of the month at the Discovery Room Field Station (7 years +) and during special weekend hours with docent-led activities (all ages).

3 yrs + Free w/ admission or annual pass

RP4803.601	Seasons	Jan 6	11:30am-noon	Sa
RP4803.602	Trees	Feb 3	11:30am-noon	Sa
RP4803.603	Baby Animals	Mar 3	11:30am-noon	Sa



Celebrate the first week of the new year with a hike and winter activities at the New Year Nature Hike & Cider-sipping.

## New Year Nature Hike & Cider-sipping

Finish the first week of 2018 with a family-friendly hike along Robinson Nature Center's trails! We'll learn to make kid-friendly wassail (mulled cider) for the cold winter days ahead, then head out on the trails with a naturalist for a guided winter hike. Try a range of winter activities to help your family stay active and keep the kids entertained during the chilly days ahead. Then, return to the Center to warm up with our wassail! Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

6 yrs + \$9 per person

RP4815.601 Jan 6 2:30-4:30pm Sa

To register for a class or event, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/rap](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap) or call 410-313-0400.



Learn about hibernation or penguins with tot-friendly investigations at Lil' Acorns.



Warm up at Robinson Nature Center's Snowball Tea Party.

## Lil' Acorns (Parent/Child)

Hold your lil' acorn's hand through an unforgettable morning. In our Hibernation program, discover the winter habitats of wildlife. In our Penguin Parade program, discover the life of penguins. Each program contains tot-friendly investigations! These parent/child interactive programs include song, sensory activities, a puppet show and a short walk through the woods.

2-3 yrs with an adult \$18 per program (one parent, one child)

### Hibernation

RP4817.601 Jan 13 10:30am-noon Sa

### Penguin Parade

RP4817.602 Mar 10 10:30am-noon Sa

## Saturday Puppet Theater

Join us for nature-themed puppet theater presentations at the Robinson Nature Center! Each puppet show portrays a different nature story. After the puppet show, create a simple craft to take home. All children must be accompanied by a registered adult for the duration of the program.

2 yrs + \$5 per person

### Tortoise & Hare

RP4871.601 Jan 20 11:30am Sa

### Who Needs Vultures?

RP4871.602 Feb 17 11:30am Sa

### Luck of the "Iris"

RP4871.603 Mar 17 11:30am Sa

Frozen Fest *Page 4*

## Winter Crisp Nature Walk with Campfire Treats

There's nothing like a crisp winter day! Get out and get active with your family on this guided nature hike. Discover how to identify trees in winter, the survival tactics of wildlife, and many more winter wonders. Restore your warmth and energy around a campfire with hearty, cinnamon-spiced, fire-baked apples. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

All ages \$9 per person

RP4815.602 Feb 3 2:30-4pm Sa

## Snowball Tea Party

Spend a fantastic afternoon with your little one at Robinson Nature Center's snowball tea party. Make a personalized snow globe to take home and participate in winter-inspired activities. Savor an impeccably catered tea service by Sweet Simplic-Tea. Tea service includes tea, lemonade and delightful treats just right for little fingers. Fee includes program, all materials, full tea service and gratuity for service. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. **As this is a catered event, you must register no later than February 11 to attend.**

3 yrs + \$27, child; \$22, adult

RP4865.601 Feb 18 2:30-4:30pm Su

To register for a class or event, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/rap](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap) or call 410-313-0400.



Enjoy survival-based investigations when school is out at our School's out Wildlife Survival Day Camp.

## Youth

- For programs listed as "drop-off" programs at the Nature Center, parents are welcome to stay for the duration of the program, but are subject to the Center's \$5 per adult admission fee.
- Listed by earliest start date.
- Fee/price is per person.

### Animal Trackers After School with Robinson

Set your backpacks aside and explore fascinating plant and animal mysteries with naturalists from the Robinson Nature Center. Classes incorporate live animal presentations, hands-on investigations, games and more. Make up classes for those cancelled due to inclement weather occur in the two weeks following the initial six classes.

Info/Registration: 410-313-0400.

Grades K-4 Longfellow ES Classes: 6

RP4812.651 Jan 31 3:30-4:30pm W \$99

### School's Out Wildlife Survival Day Camp

While school is out, join us for an incredible day at the Robinson Nature Center. Explore survival strategies of animals and other wildlife through live animal presentations, movies in our planetarium, crafts and nature hikes. Pack a snack and a non-perishable lunch (no nut products). Extend the fun with after-care. Forms are emailed to participants two weeks prior to camp.

6-12 yrs

RP4812.601 Feb 16 8:30am-3:30pm F \$45

**After Care for above program**

RP4812.602 3:30-5pm F \$10

### NEW! How to Find an Owl

Pack a lunch, bring your binoculars, and join Howard County Bird Club Member, Jay Sheppard, and a Robinson Nature Center Naturalist on this winter birding adventure! Learn how to search for roosting owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and shares his skills and knowledge as participants search for owl species including Long-eared, Saw-whet, Barred, and Great Horned owls. This program takes place at Patuxent State Park and is weather-dependent (cancelled with refunds issued in the event of heavy rain or snow). Please note there are no restroom facilities. All children must be accompanied by a registered adult.

7 yrs+

RP4805.601 Feb 17 Sa \$5

## Adults (18 yrs+)

### Outdoors with Young Children- Growing up WILD

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education curriculum for ages 3-7 that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Attend this training to receive 27 field-tested, hands-on, nature-based, ready-made thematic units and over 400 experiences in an activity guide that can be used to teach young children outdoors. **Must register by Wednesday, January 24.**

18 yrs + Classes: 1

RP4833.601 Jan 27 9am-12:30pm Sa \$15



*Home School Classes allow young home schoolers a chance to learn skills and gain exposure to nature and science topics at an age-appropriate pace.*

## Valentine's Day Truffle-Making & Wine-Tasting *Page 4*

## Teaching Children Outdoors-Project WILD

Project WILD provides K-12 educators with wildlife-based conservation lessons that encourage students to foster responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources. The curriculum is only provided at trainings facilitated by certified instructors. All participants must attend both days of this workshop to receive the Project WILD curriculum guide. **Register by February 17.**

18 yrs + Classes: 2

RP4833.602 Feb 22 & 23 3:30-6:45pm Th-F \$25

## NEW! Saturday Night Out *Page 5*



## Home School

- For Pre-Home & Home School Classes, there are three seasons of classes (fall, winter and spring) that focus on different themes. (Themes are listed in course descriptions.)
- Parents may attend classes with their child(ren) at no cost.
- Siblings younger than 4 years old are welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent at all times.
- Registration for classes opens June of each year.
- All participants must complete a participant form, which is e-mailed out prior to each season.
- Info: Robinson Nature Center, 410-313-0400 or [mdowney@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mdowney@howardcountymd.gov)

## Pre-Home School Classes 2017-2018

Give your young home schoolers a chance to learn skills and gain exposure to nature and science topics at an age-appropriate pace. Sign up to attend classes on either the first Thursday or first Friday of the month. Winter Topics: Solar system, Meteorites & the Moon, Rocks, Mud & More. Spring Topics: Mammals, Creepy, Crawly Critters, Taking Care of the Earth.

4-5 yrs \$30 per child,  
per season 2:30-4pm

RP4885.601	1st Thursdays in winter	Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1
RP4885.611	1st Fridays in winter	Dec 8*, Jan 5, Feb 2
RP4885.701	1st Thursdays in spring	Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3
RP4885.711	1st Fridays in spring	Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

\*Classes are on the second Friday of the month.



Choose from various immersive experiences in nature and science themed Home School Classes.

## Home School Classes 2017-2018

Give your home-schooled students hands-on, immersive experiences in nature and science topics. Sign up to attend classes on either the first Thursday or first Friday of the month. Winter Topics: Solar System, Comets & Meteors, Geology. Spring Topics: Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Living Green.

6-9 yrs 2:30-4pm

\$30 per child, per season

RP4885.602	1st Thursdays in winter	Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1
RP4885.612	1st Fridays in winter	Dec 8*, Jan 5, Feb 2
RP4885.702	1st Thursdays in spring	Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3
RP4885.712	1st Fridays in spring	Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

9-13 yrs 2:30-4pm

\$30 per child, per season

RP4885.603	1st Thursdays in winter	Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1
RP4885.613	1st Fridays in winter	Dec 8*, Jan 5, Feb 2
RP4885.703	1st Thursdays in spring	Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3
RP4885.713	1st Fridays in spring	Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4

\*Classes are on the second Friday of the month.

## Home School Parent-Guided Workshop

Join us for monthly opportunities to connect with other home-school families in an informal learning environment. Children socialize and collaborate with one another on parent-assisted educational projects and imaginative play opportunities. By joining, gain special access to a private, collaborative classroom space reserved specifically for home school families, special equipment, a tailored student project and social play opportunities. Each adult and child that plans on attending must register individually for the workshop. Price per person/per season. Please note, there is no online registration.

4 yrs + Classes: 3 \$15, resident; \$18, nonresident

### **2nd Thursdays in winter**

RP4885.650 Dec 14 2:30-4pm Th

### **2nd Thursdays in spring**

RP4885.750 Mar 8 2:30-4pm Th

***"These classes and workshops were age appropriate and educational and fun. We are hoping to sign up next year as well. Thanks for all you did to make it a success."***

*- Robinson Nature Center Home School Classes 2017-2018 Participant*



JAMES & ANNE  
**Robinson**  
NATURE CENTER

6692 Cedar Lane  
Columbia, MD 21044  
410-313-0400

### Hours

Wednesday-Saturday: 9 AM-5 PM  
Sunday: Noon-5 PM  
Closed on Mondays & Tuesdays

### Daily Admission

Adults: \$5  
Children (3-17 yrs): \$3  
Under 3: FREE



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/ROBINSONNATURECENTER

### Annual Passes

Annual pass holders are entitled to complimentary general admission to Robinson, use of its trails, a 10% discount in the gift shop and discounted admission to certain programs. Annual passes expire one year from date of purchase.  
(NR) = Non-Resident of Howard County.

Senior (50 years +)	\$20 / \$40 (NR)
Student (with school ID)	\$20 / \$40 (NR)
Individual	\$25 / \$50 (NR)
Family (household)	\$50 / \$100 (NR)

Add an additional \$50 to any annual pass level to enjoy Friends of Robinson Nature Center benefit.

### Friends of Robinson Nature Center Membership Levels

Friends of Robinson Nature Center memberships include an annual pass to the nature center, as well as friends-only benefits. For details, please call 410-313-0400.

Patron	\$175
Supporter	\$250
Sustainer	\$500
Lifetime	\$1,000