



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

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



Hello Home School Families!

We wanted to take the time to welcome you all to the fall session of Robinson Nature Center's Home School class (age 6-9), and give you some information about what to expect for the classes and workshops throughout the season.

- Your child's class will occur on the first **Thursday** of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Classes will be held on **December 8th, January 5th, and February 2nd**. Before arriving on December 8th, 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.
- This year 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.

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.

****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!

KIRBY BROWN



Kirby began teaching at Robinson in February 2016, and his favorite part of Robinson is the NatureSphere. Before working at Robinson Nature Center, Kirby worked at Pocomoke River State Park and Assateague Island State Park with the Maryland Park Service. His favorite topics to teach are about raptors and insects.

JOSHUA DETWEILER



Joshua began teaching at Robinson in June 2015. His special wildlife interest is in birds of prey species including hawks, falcons, eagles, and owls. He has held previous positions at Raptor Centers such as The Vermont Institute of Natural Science where he was involved in handling, training, and programming with these amazing birds. He enjoys anything outdoor related from bird watching and hiking all the way to hunting and fishing with his family. He loves music and often spends his time listening to and playing his guitar and singing.



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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 8th!

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