



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 Pre-Home School class (age 4-5), and give you some information about what to expect for the classes this season.

- Your child's class will occur on the first **Friday** of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Classes will be held on **Sept. 8, Oct. 6, and Nov. 3, 2017**. (Please note that the September class is on the second Friday of the month instead of the first.) Before arriving on September 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.



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

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



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.

Meet the Teachers!

Tracey Gelner: Ms. Tracey is very excited to be working with the 4-5 year olds in pre-home school class again this year! Tracey has degrees in Biology, Geography, and Environmental Systems and has worked as a teacher with many age groups including pre-school and high school. Tracey loves being outdoors working in her garden and taking care of the nature center's many animal ambassadors!

Kimberly Steward: Ms. Kim is one of the newest educators at the nature center and is very excited to work with the pre-home school class this year. Kim has experience teaching all age groups from pre-school to senior citizens and has earned degrees in Wildlife, Biology, Forestry, and Curriculum Design. When Kim isn't working at the nature center she enjoys being outside with her dogs and tending to her garden.

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 September 8th!

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

Kimberly Steward
Environmental Educator
ksteward@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0506