



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 spring 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's** of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Classes will be held on **March 7th 2019, April 4th 2019, and May 2nd, 2019**. Before arriving on March 7th, 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!

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.

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 March 7th!

Kirby Brown
Environmental Educator
kwbrown@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0503

Joshua Detweiler
Environmental Educator
jdetweiler@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-0507