



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 winter session 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 will occur on the first **Thursday** of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Classes will be held on **Dec. 7, 2017, Jan. 4, 2018 and Feb. 1, 2018**. Before arriving on December 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.
- 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.



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- 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.

For most classes, we will go outside, unless there is a thunderstorm. If it is raining only, we will still go outside. **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 6 years ago. I have been an educator for 13 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 this year. I graduated from Saint Francis University earlier this year 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!



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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 September 7th!

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