



# Howard County RECREATION & PARKS

Robinson Nature Center

6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

[www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter.htm)

410-313-0400



Hello Home School Families!

We wanted to take the time to welcome you all to the 2020-2021 school year of Robinson Nature Center's Home School class. We have made some changes this year to the program related to [COVID Safety Guidelines](#). Please read through the letter so you are aware of the changes and can make a decision about whether or not the program still meets your needs and that of your child.

- Your child is signed up for the **Fall 2020 Thursday Pre-Homeschool** (4-5 yr old) class. Class will occur on the first Thursday of every month from **2:30-4:00 PM** at the Nature Center. Class dates are **Sept 3, Oct 1 and Nov 5**.
- Two days prior to the first day of class, you will receive an email with detailed check-in/check-out procedures and introducing you to this year's teachers.
- Before arriving on **Sept 3**, please fill out a [Participant Information Form](#) for your child.
- 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/rnhomeschoolmaterials> to access the materials.
- We will be continuing to offer a [Home School Class 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?**

Classes will look a little different this year, so even if you are a returning home school family, please read the following carefully.

**Sign-In/Sign-Out** – This year, sign in and sign out will occur outside on the mezzanine patio behind the Nature Center. Please walk your child to sign-in and retrieve your child at sign out by following the side walk around to the back of the building. The front doors will not be in use. Each of your children will need to be signed in and out of their class by a parent or adult guardian. Children may not be left unattended at any time. Please note, at sign out, we require the person retrieving the child to show a government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport, U.S. military ID, or permanent resident card).

**Parent options during class** – *Due to COVID restrictions on group sizes, we will not be able to accommodate parents attending class with their child(ren) this season.* While your child is in class, you're welcome to leave the Nature Center and return for pick-up at 4:00 PM, explore our trails, sit upstairs on the Green Roof, enjoy the Nature Place, or relax in our "Parent Lounge". The Parent Lounge will be set up 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. There will be a limit of 20 people allowed in the parent lounge. Everyone will be required to wear a mask and socially distance in the parent lounge. We kindly ask that you do not utilize the mezzanine patio during class, as it will be utilized heavily this year by the classes themselves.

**Siblings** – Siblings are not allowed to sit in on classes this year but are welcome in the parent lounge, nature place, trails, or green roof patio with an adult during class time.

**New Safety Measures** – Please read our full list of [COVID Safety Guidelines](#) here before you decide if whether or not the program will meet your needs. This document includes details on some of the new Safety Measures in place this year including:

- a. All students will be required to wear a face covering during sign in, class time, and sign out. Parents must wear a face covering for sign in and sign out as well.
- b. All students will need to have a COVID symptom screening and **temperature check each class at sign-in**. Any student who does not pass the health screening or who has a temperature over 100.4 degrees F will not be allowed to attend class that day.
- c. Group sizes will be limited to only 15 people per group- including teachers and students.
- d. We are taking measures to decrease shared materials and are increasing our cleaning and sanitization of materials and commonly touched surfaces.
- e. Weather-permitting, we are working on ways to spend the majority of class time outdoors if possible.

**Special accommodations/severe allergies** – If your child requires any special accommodations or severe allergies we need to be aware of, please call Meagan Downey at 410-313-0405 as soon as possible so we can better understand your child's needs. For Howard County residents, please visit the following link to provide information about your child's needs/complete your accommodation request: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Therapeutic-Rec>.

### **"Take Nature Home" Option**

If you would rather bring the experience of these classes home for your kids, our new "Take Nature Home" programs include a fully curated kit of materials organized for each class activity and pre-recorded videos with lessons and guidance on activities. We are currently offering a monthly Take Nature Home kit/class for each age group. For information and sign up for September programs, see [Take Nature Home – September Programs](#) (link). Sign up by Sept 4<sup>th</sup> to pick up materials on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Refunds**

Please note, our normal home school class refund policies are not in effect this year. We understand that some of the new requirements for class may not be possible for some families and children. If the new requirements for attending class are not ones your family/child can meet, please contact our front desk for a full refund at 410-313-0400.

**\*\*\*If you have decided not to send your child to home school class this year, please notify us by replying to this email or calling 410-313-0400. Please note that because your child's spot is reserved unless you notify us otherwise, there are no refunds for no-shows at class. To receive a refund, you must notify us by no later than 5pm the Wednesday prior to the first day of each home school season (Sept 2 for fall classes, Dec 2 for winter classes and Mar 3 for spring classes).\*\*\***

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's class 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 on Thursday, September 3rd!

Meagan Downey  
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