

ANSC BIRTHDAY PARTIES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Is there a young naturalist, paleontologist, or artist in your life whose special day is coming up? Come celebrate at the Austin Nature & Science Center!

WHO CAN CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY AT ANSC?

- We welcome children celebrating their **4th through 7th birthday**.
- There is a **maximum of 15 child participants** for our activities, including siblings; however, additional adult family members are welcome to observe the activities and take part in the celebrations.

WHAT DOES MY RESERVATION INCLUDE?

- **45 minutes of staff-led activities** aligned to your party's theme
- A **party room** with tables and chairs

WHEN WILL OUR PARTY TAKE PLACE?

- Birthday parties can be scheduled for **select Saturdays from November through March**.
- Birthday parties are **2 hours long**. They may either be scheduled from **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** or from **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**.

WHERE WILL OUR PARTY TAKE PLACE?

Birthday parties will take place **both indoors and outdoors** — come appropriately dressed for the weather!

HOW MUCH DOES A PARTY COST?

- Please refer to the ANSC website for prices.

HOW DO WE SIGN UP?

To reserve a party date and time, [register online](#). Registration begins in mid-October. Please check the website for details. Walk-in, fax-in and mail-in registration is available during ANSC's regular business hours.

QUESTIONS?

Check out our [Party Timeline](#) on the next page or contact Visitor Services at 512-974-3888 during regular business hours.

PARTY THEMES



[ART IN NATURE](#)



[DINOSAURS](#)



[WILDLIFE](#)



PARTY TIMELINE

30 min.
before
party time

CHECK-IN

Stop by the Visitors' Pavilion front desk for directions to your reserved room. Your room will be open for set-up 30 minutes before the party start time.

SET-UP & UNLOADING

- Tables and chairs will already be set up in your party room before you arrive.
- While unloading your vehicle, you may temporarily park along Nature Center Drive immediately behind the Headquarters Building. After unloading, you may park in the gravel lot just south of the Headquarters Building.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Please help us keep our resident animals healthy: no balloons, confetti, glitter, or piñatas. Food is not permitted in exhibit areas, including the animal enclosures. Flame candles and lighters are permitted.

0hr 0m

PARTY BEGINS

Greet your guests and let the fun begin!

0hr 15m

ANSC-LED ACTIVITIES BEGIN

Activities will be related to the theme that you select: [Art in Nature](#), [Dinosaurs](#), or [Wildlife](#). Remember that you and your guests will be taking part in both indoor and outdoor activities!

1hr 0m

ANSC-LED ACTIVITIES END

The second hour of the party is yours to play, eat, and celebrate. Looking for something to do? Consider visiting our animal enclosures or the Dino Pit if you didn't have a chance to during your party's activities!

2hr 0m

CLEAN-UP & LOADING

- ANSC staff will take care of the tables, chairs, and garbage in your room.
- While loading your vehicle, you may temporarily park immediately behind the Headquarters Building (just as you did during unloading).

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? No problem! Call ANSC's Visitor Services at (512) 974-3888. We're open from Monday–Saturday from 9–5 and Sunday from 12–5.



ART IN NATURE

At our Art in Nature-themed party, attendees will expand their definition of what 'art' means, explore how art exists within nature, and produce their own masterpieces using nature both as a source of inspiration and as a toolkit for creation.

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL WE DO AT THE PARTY?

Participants will experience the creation of two types of art at this party: **ephemeral art** and **"bug art."**



EPHEMERAL ART

Partygoers will adventure **outdoors** into the Zilker Preserve in order to create ephemeral art, a type of art that **combines natural elements and human creativity**. Like all things in nature, ephemeral art is meant to be **temporary** and **site-specific**, which means that artists will be leaving their creations in the preserve after their completion. In order to capture our artists' artwork, ANSC staff will take a **photo** of each masterpiece to post on our website.

The photo above, *Rowan Leaves and Hole* (1987), shows a natural sculpture created by ephemeral art star **Andy Goldsworthy**.



BUG ART

After leaving behind their ephemeral art pieces, partygoers will return **inside** to experience the creation of a unique piece of bug art — **paintings created by the feet and bodies of ANSC's bug artists-in-residence**. The birthday child may invite their friends to autograph this one-of-a-kind masterpiece, which can then be taken home in one piece or shared with partygoers.

The artwork above, *Dance Steps* (2004), was **painted by a Madagascar hissing cockroach** under the guidance of bug art pioneer **Steven R. Kutcher** (an entomologist also known as "The Bug Man of Hollywood").

WHO WILL ENJOY THIS PARTY THEME?

- Artists ready to try using supplies other than crayons, colored pencils, and markers
- Nature collectors looking to do something with the cool leaves, rocks, and stones they find
- Admirers of art that deserves a second look



DINOSAURS

At our Dinosaur-themed party, young paleontologists will learn about dinosaurs and fossils, touch real fossils from our collection, and dig for bones in the Dino Pit!

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL WE DO AT THE PARTY?

Participants will dig into dinosaurs indoors, as we take **a close-up look at fossils**, and **outdoors**, during our expedition to **the Dino Pit!**



FOSSIL CLOSE-UP

To begin their training as paleontologists, partygoers will **learn about dinosaurs and other creatures that roamed Texas in prehistoric times**. During this **indoor** portion of the party activities, participants will have the opportunity to touch and feel **real dinosaur fossils** as well as **fossil replicas**.

When we talk about these dinosaurs, we will examine lifelike dinosaur models and compare them to the fossils that have been discovered. We will use scientific reasoning along with our imaginations to envision what life must have been like for these creatures eons ago!



DINO PIT

After completing paleontology training, partygoers will embark on an **outdoor** expedition to the ANSC Dino Pit, where, just like real-life paleontologists, they will **use field tools** (such as shovels and brushes) **to uncover fossilized bones** buried in the sand.

The Dino Pit fossils are replicas of actual prehistoric specimens. Some of these fossils were excavated in Austin, such as bones from the **Shoal Creek Plesiosaur** and the **301 Congress Mammoth**. Other fossils, like those from the **T. rex** and the **Texas Pterosaur**, came from more distant parts of Texas, such as Big Bend National Park.

WHO WILL ENJOY THIS PARTY THEME?

- Explorers fascinated by creatures of the distant past
- Future paleontologists who can't stop digging holes in their yard
- Fossil hunters looking to learn more about their discoveries



At our Wildlife-themed party, young naturalists will get to learn more about (and even touch!) some of ANSC's resident mammals, reptiles, and insects.

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL WE DO AT THE PARTY?

Participants will encounter ANSC animals **inside**, where we'll get an up-close look at some critters and ask ourselves **Mammal, Bird, or Reptile?**



MEET THE ANIMALS

Partygoers will begin their wildlife experience **indoors**, where an ANSC staff member will introduce some of our resident animals for participants to observe, learn about, and even touch!

We will showcase a variety of animals: not just **mammals** (like Clara, the ferret in the above photo), but also **reptile, bird, and insect** friends! ANSC staff will help party participants create a calm environment for humans and animals to interact with each other.

WHO WILL ENJOY THIS PARTY THEME?

- Animal lovers who want a closer look at some special animal friends
- ANSC "veterans" who want to get to know our resident animals even better!

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The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-3914.

