

# Austin Nature and Science Center

## 2016 – 2017 Monthly Homeschool Programs

**Days and Times:** Homeschool Monthly Programs cover a new topic each month. Each topic is repeated Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with a morning time of 10:00 am or an afternoon time at 12:30 pm. Monthly Homeschool Programs are 1.5 hours except for the new 3 year olds class which is 1 hour. Dates and topics are listed below with a brief description. Programs meet at ANSC unless noted otherwise.

**Registration:** Registration begins August 15, 2016. Program registration is now an on-line process. Your child may attend the Fall Semester (3 sessions) or the Winter Semester (3 sessions) or both semesters (total of 6 sessions). Fill out the registration and waiver information online, [www.austintexas.gov/page/online-registration](http://www.austintexas.gov/page/online-registration) If you do not have access to the internet please contact us at 512-974-3888.

**Cost for 4-12 year olds:** Fall Semester: Austin Resident \$28.50 per participant, Non Resident \$33.75 per participant. Winter Semester: Austin Resident \$28.50 per participant, Non Resident \$33.75 per participant. **Ages:** Monthly Homeschool Programs offers 4 different age groups, 3 year olds, 4-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, and 9-12 year olds.

**New this year:** 3 year olds only class. 1 hour class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:00 am only. Parent or guardian will be required to stay with the participant. Fall Semester: Austin Resident \$19.00 per participant, Non Resident \$22.50 per participant, Winter Semester: Austin Resident \$19.00 per participant, Non Resident \$22.50 per participant.

### FALL

#### **Awesome Amphibians (September 19-21, 23):**

Meet live amphibians and explore some interesting facts about their characteristics and life cycles. Salamanders look like lizards, but they are different in many ways. We will do an experiment to show the differences in their skins and why that is important. Play an amphibian survival game. Can you identify some local amphibians by the sounds they make?

#### **Fossils and Faults (October 24-26, 28) this program will meet at Pease Park:**

Safely explore the banks of Shoal Creek in Pease Park. Hike along the stream bed to observe rock layers and faulting that helped create the Balcones Fault Zone. Investigate rocks for observable patterns that indicate prehistoric life. What happened in geologic history that has made Shoal Creek a treasure chest of fossils?

#### **Find Out About Fish (November 14-16, 18):**

Discover how the anatomy of fish allow them to adapt and thrive in a watery world. Discuss how water quality and human activities affect the conservation and survival of Texas fish. Practice casting with a rod and reel. Learn about catch limits for fish. Do you know where and what you need to fish in Central Texas?

### Winter

#### **Astronomy (December 12-14, 16)**

Crawl into the StarLab, an inflatable planetarium, to view constellations in the night sky. Learn how astronomers use these patterns to guide them in exploring our world and the universe. Explore the life cycle of stars, including our sun. Participate in a game that explores rotation and revolution. What happens in our solar system from one birthday to the next?

#### **Acid and Bases (January 23-25, 27):**

Learn about what makes a substance an acid or a base. Experiment with pH indicator to explore what is acid and what is base in our everyday lives. Explore the importance of acids and bases in the kitchen, in nature and in your own body. Explore how pH levels can affect what can survive in different habitats. Why do some of our foods have a taste that make us wrinkle-up our face?

#### **Bees Bats and Birds (February 13-15, 17):**

Flowering plants and crops depend on animal pollinators like birds, bats, bees, and other insects. Pollinators visit different plants depositing pollen from another plant. The pollen is used to produce a fruit or seed. Pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. What conservation efforts can you help with?



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begins  
August 15**

