Austin Nature & Science Center

Winter 2016 – Spring 2017

301 Nature Center Drive *Phone: (512) 974-3888*
Austin, TX 78746 *Fax: (512) 974-3885*
Parking: 2389 Stratford Drive
www.austintexas.gov/ansc

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
Cultural Places, Natural Spaces

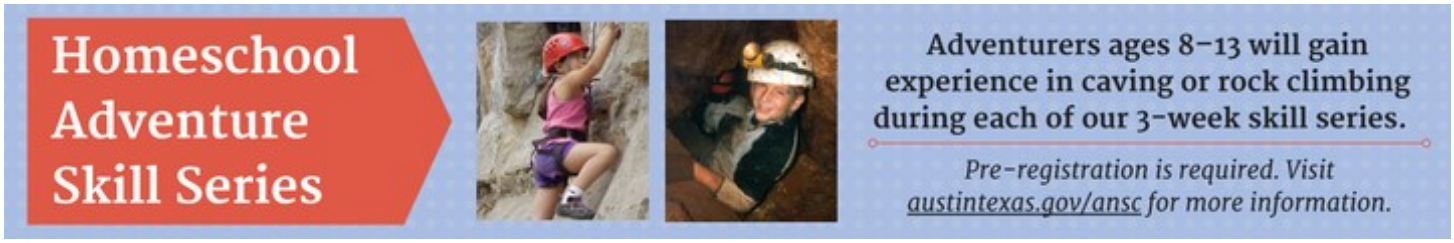
CAPRA ACCREDITED
Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies

CITY OF AUSTIN FOUNDED 1839

Austin Nature & Science Center

EVENTS AND MORE

Join the Austin Nature and Science Center staff as we celebrate bugs, birds, trees, and more!
No registration is required to attend family events. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Visit www.austintexas.gov/ansc to learn more about field trips and scout programs.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Is there a young artist, paleontologist, or naturalist in your life whose special day is coming up? Come celebrate with a birthday party at ANSC! See our Birthday Parties brochure for more information.

Ages:	4–8 years; 15 children maximum
Fee:	$190 for Austin residents $225 for non-Austin residents
Time:	2 hours; 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- **Parties include** 45 minutes of staff-led activities aligned to your party theme, as well as the use of a party room with tables and chairs. Birthday party rooms must be cleaned and vacated at the end of the two hour period.
- **Register online** to reserve a party date and time. Walk-in, fax-in, and mail-in registration are also available during ANSC's regular business hours.

Birthday Themes

Art in Nature

Dinosaurs

Wildlife

ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

Is your group looking for a unique view of our natural world that few Austinites have experienced? From high atop a rock wall to deep underground, ANSC staff members will lead your group of adventurers on one of four types of outdoor excursions in the Austin area. To reserve a date and time, please call Visitor Services at (512) 974-3888. See our Adventure Experiences brochure for more information.

Ages:	9–adult	**Time:**	We have time slots available Tuesday–Friday; November through April.
Fee:	$240/group for Austin residents $284/group for non-residents		

Archery

Climbing

Team Building

Caving

More information available online under our Camps and Programs tab.

WINTER BREAK CAMP

December 27–30, 2016

Join us this December for Winter Break Camp. Plan to have fun no matter what the weather brings. Bundle up (wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp) and get ready for adventure! Make sure to bring a healthy lunch, two snacks, and a water bottle each day. **Pre-registration is required!** *Camp activities are subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

Ages: 5–6, 7–8 and 9–11 years

Fee: $200 for Austin residents
$225 for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Natural Wonders Camp for Ages 5–6

Have you ever seen art made by the sun or wondered how animals like to play? In this action-packed week, campers will discover and create different types of natural art. Learn about wildlife and give back to ANSC animals.

Animal Behavior Camp for Ages 7–8

Think like an animal in this exciting camp! Search for animal tracks in the ANSC preserve, discover how animals work together as a team, and train your friends to act like animals. Campers will have the opportunity to meet animals up close and search for signs of wildlife around them. Field trip to Roy G. Guerrero Park.

Austin Adventure Camp for Ages 9–11

Explore Austin's winter personality outdoors with ANSC! Bring your bike or borrow one of ours to discover new sights. Brush up on your campfire building skills and work together with your team to reach a prize. Campers must be able to ride a bike unassisted for 5 miles.

Ages	Theme	Code
5–6 years	**Natural Wonders**	**203818 01**
7–8 years	**Animal Behavior**	**203818 02**
9–11 years	**Austin Adventure**	**203818 03**

SPRING BREAK CAMP

March 13–17, 2017

Ages: 5–6, 7–8 and 9–11 years

Fee: $250 for Austin residents
$294 for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Get the most out of your Spring Break! Sign up for a week-long camp at ANSC. Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp and get ready for adventure. Make sure to bring a healthy lunch, two snacks, and a water bottle each day. **Pre-registration is required!** *Camp activities subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

Pathfinders
Ages 5–6

Can you find your way to adventure in the great outdoors? In this camp, pathfinders will use clues and their sense of direction to discover exciting treasure. Explore plants, rocks, and wildlife while learning to work as a team. Traverse new trails on a walking field trip to Zilker Botanical Gardens.

Expedition: Adventure
Ages 7–8

Brush up on your wilderness skills with this hands-on camp. Explore the Zilker Preserve and find out how to survive in the natural world. Hide out in a fort built with friends. Learn skills that Texans have used for centuries to live off of the land. Hone your archery skills and set your sights on a fun week of camp!

Nature Photography
Ages 9–11

What is the coolest nature photograph you have ever taken? We will help you add to your collection of nature images. Bring your own camera or borrow one of ours to practice taking pictures of natural wonders. Campers will visit habitats both familiar and unusual while learning about their camera. Field trip to a wild cave. All required safety equipment will be provided.

Ages	Theme	Code
5–6 years	**Pathfinders**	**203823 01**
7–8 years	**Expedition: Adventure**	**203823 02**
9–11 years	**Nature Photography**	**203823 03**

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

Ages: 5–6, 7–8 and 9–11 years

Fee: $50/day for Austin residents
$58/day for non-Austin residents

Time: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Sign-in & Sign-out: Nature Labs Building

Make the most of school holidays with engaging activities and outdoor explorations. Pack a lunch, a water bottle, and two healthy snacks. Participants should wear weather appropriate, comfortable clothes and shoes that can get dirty and damp. **Pre-registration required!** *Camp activities subject to change in the case of inclement weather.*

January 2, 2017
Nature Navigation

Spend the day learning how to find your way through nature. Hunt for treasure in the 70 acre Zilker Nature Preserve in the **5–6 year old's** camp. Join the **7–8 year old's** camp and harness the power of satellites to find hidden geocaches. Learn to read a compass and use your knowledge to create a scavenger hunt with **9–11 year old** campers.

January 16, 2017
Geology Rocks!

Get a unique view of the earth in a way that few people have experienced. Search for stalactites and scramble over rocks with the **7–8 year old's** camp while exploring the unique features of Reimer's Ranch. Take a field trip to local caves with **5–6 year old's** camp and **9–11 year old's** camp. Check out what is going on under the earth's surface and learn how these cave systems were formed. All required safety equipment will be provided. Rock on!

February 20, 2017
Terrific Trekking

Discover animal life in and around Lady Bird Lake with the **5–6 year old's** camp. Join the **7–8 year old's** camp and traverse our challenge course as a team. Bring your own bike or borrow one of ours to explore a wild trail from the seat of a bike with the **9–11 year old's** camp. Campers must be able to ride a bike unassisted for 5 miles.

School Holiday Camps	January 2, 2017 Nature Navigation	January 16, 2017 Geology Rocks!	February 20, 2017 Terrific Trekking
5–6 years	203819 01	203820 01	203821 01
7–8 years	203819 02	203820 02	203821 02
9–11 years	203819 03	203820 03	203821 03

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Registration: All programs require pre-registration unless otherwise noted. Online, fax, mail and walk-in registrations are accepted at the Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC). Online registration is available 24 hours per day; walk-in, fax-in and mail-in registration is available during ANSC's regular business hours. ANSC does not accept registration by email to protect financial data. Please complete one registration form per participant.

Online registration is strongly encouraged. Directly access the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) registration website at www.austintexas.gov/parksregister, or visit ANSC's Camps and Programs webpage and use the "online registration" link located there.

For fax, mail, or in person registration, visit or call the ANSC front desk to request a registration form. The completed registration form will be entered into the system at the earliest convenience of front desk staff. No spaces will be held for fax-in, mail-in or walk-in registration submissions. Please check your email, including your spam folder. If you have not received an email, staff has not input your registration information.

Confirmation: Confirmation is sent by mail or email upon receipt of program fees. Please allow up to three weeks for confirmation.

Austin Resident and non-Austin Resident Program Fees: The PARD fee schedule for programs now has two levels; one for residents of Austin and one for non-Austin residents. The registration office can provide a list of zip codes used to determine residency for the purpose of PARD program registration.

Minimum Registration: ANSC reserves the right to cancel any class that does not meet the minimum number of required participants four days prior to the class date. If this occurs, a full refund will be given.

Cancellation: Please notify ANSC in writing to cancel a registration **7 days prior to the first day of the program to receive a refund.** All refunds require a $35 processing fee to be assessed. If the program fee is less than $35, no refund will be given. Refunds are issued to the charging credit card. If payment was made by check, the City of Austin will issue and mail a check within 4–6 weeks. Fees for programs cancelled by ANSC are returned in full without assessing the processing fee. All field trips are subject to cancellation or substitution.

Scholarships: PARD is extending financial assistance to qualified families of youth participants interested in attending recreation programs. To qualify for assistance, youth participants must 1) reside in the city of Austin and 2) receive or be eligible to receive free or reduced lunches in their school district. Applicants must complete the Financial Assistance Application for Youth Recreation Programs. This application can be found on the PARD website at www.austintexas.gov/pardfinaid.

Overview of Registration Process

1. **Go to the Austin Parks and Recreation online registration website: www.austintexas.gov/parksregister.**
2. **Determine if you already have a customer household account created. If you have participated in Parks and Recreation programs before, you may already have an account. If the system associates a current account with your contact information, you may be prompted to create a new password and username.**
3. **Browse the program listings, register, and pay in full with a credit card. Your receipt will be sent to the email address you provided on your account information along with important program information. Please check your spam folder.**
4. **Should you need to change or cancel the program for which you are registered, contact ANSC's registration office to make the request. Please review the program registration policies regarding refunds, transfers, and other important registration and participation information.**

The Austin Nature & Science Center (ANSC) was established in 1960 and is part of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Our mission is to provide hands-on educational exhibits and recreational activities that increase awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. Located in west Zilker Park, in the Zilker Nature Preserve, the site offers indoor and outdoor exhibits that are free to the public seven days a week. ANSC provides environmental science education programs to schools and the community including field trips for local and surrounding school districts, as well as homeschool, scouting, and outreach programs. ANSC hosts family events, environmentally-focused camps, and adventure programs. ANSC proudly houses Nature's Way Preschool and is home to over 50 resident wildlife. ANSC strives to reach communities throughout Austin.

Admission to the site is FREE

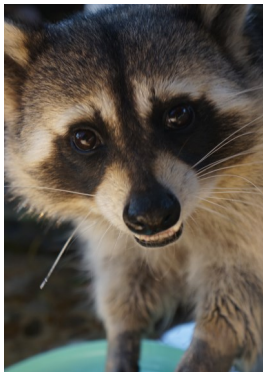
Donations Accepted

Monday through Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM

Sunday 12 PM – 5 PM

Call (512) 974-3888 or visit us on the web at www.austintexas.gov/ansc

Meet Sherlock!



Sherlock is a Common Raccoon and is native to Texas. His favorite food is carrots! Sherlock lived with humans as a pet for 5 years before coming to live at ANSC.

Common Raccoons:

… live throughout the United States, except for parts of the Rocky Mountains

… have a life expectancy of 2–3 years in the wild, but may live up to 20 years in captivity!

… make over 50 different sounds; they purr, whistle, growl, and even whinny.

… can recognize each other by the color differences in their tails and face.

… are omnivores; they eat crayfish, frogs, insects, and eggs.

… have a dark fur mask around their eyes to help them see better at night by reducing glare.

… in a group are called a gaze.

… have a name adapted from the Algonquian Indian word *arakun*, which means "he scratches with his hands".

Mayor and City Council Members

Mayor Steve Adler
Council Member Ora Houston
Council Member Delia Garza
Council Member Sabino "Pio" Renteria
Council Member Gregorio "Greg" Casar
Council Member Ann Kitchen
Council Member Don Zimmerman
Council Member Leslie Pool
Council Member Ellen Troxclair
Council Member Kathie Tovo
Council Member Sheri Gallo

City Managers Office

Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager

Parks and Recreation Board Members

Jane Rivera, Chair
Richard DePalma, Vice Chair
Michael Casias, Board Member
Rick Cofer, Board Member
Tom Donovan, Board Member
Alesha Larkins, Board Member
Francoise Luca, Board Member
Susan Roth, Board Member
Alex Schmitz, Board Member
Mark Vane, Board Member
Pat Wimberly, Board Member

Parks and Recreation Department

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Assistant Director
Angela Means, Acting Assistant Director

Parks and Recreation Department Mission Statement

The purpose of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department is to inspire Austin to learn, play, protect, and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places.

Children's programs supervised by Parks and Recreation Department and requiring enrollment/registration in order to participate are not licensed by the state, but follow local standards of care as adopted by the City of Austin Ordinance No. 020131-65. A copy of the ordinance is available and posted at each site. Nature's Way Preschool is licensed by the State of Texas as a child care facility.

Persons with Disabilities - The City of Austin is committed to complying with the Americans with Disability Act. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to participate in Austin Nature & Science Center programs. You may request special accommodations to facilitate participation and inclusion in these programs. Reasonable modifications and equal access will be provided upon request. Call 512-974-3914.