

2018 Information for Parents and Guardians

Nature Discovery for Kids

Rio Grande Nature Center State Park

Sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center



Welcome! We have an exciting program planned and are pleased that your child will be joining us! Classes are held rain or shine and are *only for registered children*.

Basic program:

Sessions often begin with a factual overview of the topic. This might be in the form of discussion, game, pictures, slides, short video, study of models or real animals. Exploration and observation are exciting and so our daily nature hikes are a favorite of many students. Frequently there are trail activities and games, such as scavenger hunts, collecting and viewing insects, or collecting data. Some classes collect and observe specimens (which are then returned to nature) and some classes have projects.

Classes spend time at the beautiful observation room in the Visitor's Center, the education building, the outdoor classroom and/or other Nature Center volunteer-maintained gardens as well as areas not normally accessible to the public. Our classes often end with discussion and review of what was learned.

Registration ends Sunday at noon before class begins on Monday.

(For classes that have not been cancelled!)

- 1. Refunds and Transfers:** Must be requested no later than 4 pm, the Wednesday before the class begins. Call Visitors Center 344-7240 to make request.
- 2. Last Minute Cancellations by Parents:** You may substitute another child if you must cancel past the refund deadline. However, the parent/guardian of the new child must fill out a registration form and sign a waiver. (You may bring completed forms to first class if necessary. Download forms or pick up from volunteer at desk of Visitors Center from 10 to 4 each day.)
- 3. Class Cancellations by Instructors:** Classes will be cancelled if they have an enrollment of less than ten students by the Wednesday before class begins on Monday. Parents will be notified and will have the option of a refund or a transfer to another class, if available. **PLEASE NOTE: If you fax or mail in a registration and do NOT receive a receipt and copy of your registration form by mail before the class is to begin, please check with the Visitors Center (344-7240) to be sure the class has not been cancelled and that your child is registered before attending class.**
- 4. FRGNC administration makes the final decisions on refunds.** Refunds are given only by check. Please allow at least two weeks after the scheduled date of the class. No refunds can be given after the five day deadline as noted above. For questions on *your specific refund* call: 343-1373.

PLEASE NOTE: NM State Parks require a \$3 day-use fee (exact change or check) per vehicle entering the RGNC grounds except for Friends of the RGNC permit holders and New Mexico State Parks annual permit holders with valid permit displayed. Please consider carpooling, or join the Friends of the RGNC for \$30 and get a RGNC day-use permit for a year and 10% lower cost per class plus many other benefits!

- Meet teachers at the group shelter in front of the Education Building (south of the parking lot.)
- **BE ON TIME for class!!** We may begin with a hike and you may miss us.
- **Parents, please pick up your child/ren ON TIME** at the group shelter. We greatly appreciate it!
- We'll be hiking through the bosque where there may be scratchy bushes and rough paths, so wear shoes good for walking (**no flip-flops!**) and comfortable clothes that protect and can get dirty.
- We'll be outside! Apply sunscreen &/or insect repellent before class and you may want a hat.
- You may bring water in a non-breakable, easy to carry container. (Children carry their own!)
- Ask teachers about snacks at first class. Cell phones may only be used with permission of teacher for taking pictures. **No pictures of other children may be taken and NO other uses of cell phones permitted.**

Important !!

Children must stay with the group at all times.

Children should not bring electronic games, toys or other distractions. Check with teachers for permission before bringing specimens to show.

It is imperative that the children behave and obey instructors. Potential safety hazards will be discussed. Those whose conduct or influence creates safety or discipline problems will be asked to leave. They will not receive a refund.

Please talk with teachers if you have any other questions. The Visitor's Center Front Desk (344-7240) has our contact information.