



No portion of this article may be reproduced without  
express written permission of Style Publishing Group, LLC.  
©2007 • All rights reserved.



Style Publishing Group  
P.O. Box 1676  
Frisco, Texas 75034  
Phone: 972.335.1181  
Toll Free: 877.781.7067  
Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: [info@friscostyle.com](mailto:info@friscostyle.com)  
Web: [www.friscostyle.com](http://www.friscostyle.com)

**Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306**

*Butterfly release at the Dallas World Aquarium  
photo provided by the Dallas World Aquarium*

**AS SPRING BREAK DRAWS NEAR** and the summer months approach, you may become anxious about the long days ahead for your children. What are they going to do all day? How will you keep them entertained? Even during the school year, it's sometimes difficult to fill the weekends – that is unless sports schedules take over your calendar.

Why not take a break from the pool, video games, movies, mall and the typical activities you might do to ensure your kids are occupied throughout the day? We live in a metroplex filled with fun, educational activities that are calling out to our kids. Whether it's exploring history, interacting with animals, discovering nature, or becoming one with science, kids can entertain themselves without even realizing they're learning at the same time.

#### **BECOME ONE WITH NATURE**

If you're tired of having your kids cooped up inside, allow them to reconnect with nature. The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary, located just down the highway in McKinney, allows families to rediscover the world around them.

"It is our mission to bring nature and people together to discover, enjoy, experience, preserve and restore our priceless environment," believes Amber Kaiser, marketing and communications director of the Heard Museum. "Studies have shown that children who experience nature and natural settings have a direct positive impact on their mental, physical and spiritual health.

Families can explore the 289-acre wildlife sanctuary by walking around the four miles of hiking trails, discovering the native plant garden, viewing live animals and experiencing the indoor and outdoor exhibits, classrooms and laboratories. Hands-on preschool, home school and summer camp programs are available.

"We have over 20,000-plus students visit the Heard each year, and our numbers are increasing yearly as we expand our events and exhibits," says Ms. Kaiser. "With the first annual Dinosaurs Alive! Exhibit alone



## Enriching Entertainment

By Amanda VanCura

we had more than 20,000 visitors."

Teachers agree that the Heard Museum is a wonderful learning environment.

"Students leave the place excited and with many questions," explains Sandra Koumbaridou, mother of two and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher with Frisco Independent School District (FISD). "It's the perfect opportunity as a class and/or a family to enjoy outdoors while you learn more about the world around you. You will come back to Frisco with so much knowledge and will start looking at nature a bit differently."

In the Dallas area, one of the best spots to reconnect with nature is the Dallas Arboretum. This beautiful multigenerational garden has programs and activities for children and families during every season of the year.

"We have fountains where you will see babies slapping the water to make a splash, and crawling up on a tulip that is just at their eye level. You will see toddlers rearranging little pumpkins, petting the tadpole statues in pint-sized pools and playing in Texas Town," shares Ashley Marshall, public

relations manager. "School-age children roll down the grass hill on the Camp lawn, explore our exhibits and Texas Pioneer Adventure. Teens like our concerts and art classes. Those into physical fitness love our fitness trail."

Parents find the Arboretum to be a fun and relaxing place for the entire family.

"The frog fountains at the Arboretum are a favorite of our kids on a hot day," says Jennifer Calyer, mother of a seven and two-year-old. "Even though we have a pool in our backyard, it was more fun for them hopping through that fountain."

The Arboretum also offers educational classes for adults and children ages four and up. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and teachers will also find adventure waiting at the Arboretum. In fact, approximately 800 schools visited the gardens in 2006. Backpack programs and Scout Outs are a popular activity for troops, and summer camps are available beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### STEP BACK IN TIME

Children tend to live in the moment. Sometimes it's difficult to help them understand the way of life 100 years ago. Even adults often forget the many ways in which our every day lives have changed. Taking a hands-on approach to history is an amazing way to expand the minds of the young and old.

Right here in Dallas we have a living history museum, Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park. Families can explore a village that depicts life in North Texas from 1840 to 1910. The park includes 38 historic structures, including log cabins, the pre-Civil War Millermore home, a Victorian Main Street, a railroad complex,

an 1861 working farmstead with livestock, a 19<sup>th</sup> century church, school and more.

"All of the structures are from the North Texas area and are decorated

time, they don't even realize the in-depth history lesson they've just received," says Ms. Conine, who also believes it's a great field trip experience.

Closer to home, the Heritage Farmstead in Plano offers a turn-of-the-century look at history. This four-acre complex includes row crops, gardens, a windmill and an 1891 Victorian farmhouse with 12 original outbuildings. Mom and Me programs are available on Fridays, allowing parents and children to experience history together through stories and crafts.

Also near the Collin County area is Owen's Spring Creek Farm, home of Owen's Foods. Families can see some of the tools used by Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Owens when they started the sausage business in 1928. The Country Store, Country Kitchen and Farmer's Workshop are filled with antiques. However, a trip to Owen's isn't complete without seeing the draft horses. Located in the antique wagon showroom, these horses weigh an average of 2,300 pounds and stand between 17 and 18 1/2 hands high. Children can feed some of the smaller farm animals, including goats, lambs, donkeys and young buffaloes.

In the Dallas area, history comes in many forms.

While some may enjoy taking a walk back in time, others may want to experience a specific area of history, such as aviation. The Cavanaugh Flight Museum allows visitors to gain an appreciation for this industry.

"The museum can serve as a catalyst for family learning because it provides parents with a unique opportunity to discuss how aviation has changed our world," says Doug Jeanes, director of the museum. "The history here speaks to visitors of all ages. Elementary children love to look at



Dallas Heritage Village

photos provided by the Dallas Heritage Village

as they would have been during their time," explains Pam Conine, director of marketing and public relations. "First-person interpreters dressed in clothing of the time period populate a select number of buildings. The kids are able to literally speak with history."

Families can take a self-guided tour or choose to have one-on-one conversations with costumed interpreters. Additional craft demonstrations and activities are also available.

"We want visitors to have such a great

the planes and find the entire tour very exciting. Older children, especially teens, appreciate the war stories and walk away with an appreciation for history as well as the science and physics behind aviation."

The museum is filled with artifacts and planes from WWI, WWII, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars. "Being able to not just see, but to hear and smell a plane as it comes alive. That it survived WWII combat takes a history lesson off the page of a textbook and gives it perspective and meaning," adds Mr. Jeanes. "Down the road, we may inspire a child to become an engineer, a pilot, or who knows?"

### INTERACT WITH SCIENCE

Curiosity about our surroundings begins the moment we enter this world. Whether you're one or 100, spending a day interacting with science could spark a new interest in technology, space, animals, weather and many other forms of science.

The Museum of Nature & Science is one of the best places to visit if you're interested in learning about nature, science and technology.

"People can read about dinosaurs in a book, but nothing compares to the feeling of awe a child experiences when they see an enormous T-Rex skeleton in person," says Nicole Small, chief executive officer of the Museum of Nature and Science. "The same goes for the human body, which is why we brought BODY WORLDS.

For families interested in living science, the Dallas World Aquarium offers more than just a few sea creatures.

The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies to the Museum. Plastic models don't do this topic justice; walking through this exhibition allows visitors to see the human body from a whole new perspective."

The Museum is the result of a recent merge between The Science Place, the Dallas Children's Museum and the

Museum of Natural History. Now, the resources of all three museums can work together to create engaging exhibitions and programming.

"All of this change is good for visitors; three separate admission tickets is now one, and families can experience everything – from dinosaurs to DNA – at one institution," adds Ms. Small.

Also available at the museum are science camps, scouting activities, birthday parties and even sleepovers.

For families interested in living science, the Dallas World Aquarium offers more than just a few sea creatures. This in-depth museum provides a glimpse of continents, bodies of water and various cultures around the world. In addition to the aquarium, visitors will discover the Orinoco Rainforest exhibit, the Mundo Maya exhibit, the seasonal outdoor Madagascar exhibit, the South Africa outdoor exhibit and an entrance that displays plants and animals from the Indo-Pacific region.

"It makes for a good afternoon trip around the world, without leaving Dallas," believes Arden Richardson, director of



## frisco STYLE MAGAZINE

Style Publishing Group

P.O. Box 1676

Frisco, Texas 75034

Phone: 972.335.1181

Toll Free: 877.781.7067

Fax: 214.722.2313

E-mail: [info@friscostyle.com](mailto:info@friscostyle.com)

Web: [www.friscostyle.com](http://www.friscostyle.com)

**Ad Sales: (972) 335-1306**





*Penguins at Dallas World Aquarium*

*photo provided by the Dallas World Aquarium*

education at the aquarium. “Preschool and kindergarten students are more mesmerized by the sounds and exhibits such as leafy seadragons, jellyfish and the River with the manatees. Older students are able to find birds in free-flight, eagles, howler monkeys and seem to appreciate the plants more.”

During the 2006 school year, more than 1,000 schools visited the Dallas World Aquarium to allow students to experience the variety of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

“We take our kids there after a big unit study of oceans and ocean animals,” explains Amy Mahrer, first grade teacher in Frisco ISD. “They can relate their studies to the actual animals and places. I hope my kids can go to the Dallas World

Aquarium and not just ‘see’ the animals, but be able to relate to them... and appreciate what’s around them.”

### GET OUT AND EXPLORE!

Whether you’re curious about history, anxious to explore nature, or ready to delve into the world of science, the educational opportunities in the Dallas area are endless. Introducing your children to these places will often spark a new curiosity in yourself as well. And who knows, maybe a future astronomer, marine biologist, historian, aviator or conservationist will find inspiration during their next family adventure.

---

*Amanda VanCura is a freelance writer living in Plano.*

## Upcoming Events

### DALLAS HERITAGE VILLAGE

- March: Village Academy Classes for ages 5-9. Girls can learn to make doll clothes or join a baking class, while boys can help with the spring planting or learn how to care for the chickens at the Village
- March through May: Nip and Tuck’s Barnyard Buddies storytime for preschoolers and parents
- April 27-28: Texas Tales Storytelling Festival
- June: Time Traveler History Camps for ages 6-10

### HERITAGE FARMSTEAD

- Mom and Me programs available on Fridays now through summer

### HEARD MUSEUM

- Spring and fall native plant sales
- Green living family festival
- The return of the Dinosaurs Alive! Exhibit

### DALLAS ARBORETUM

- Dallas Blooms, Mar. 10 – April 16
- Scout Out, May 5<sup>th</sup>

### MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

- BODY WORLDS exhibit through May 28<sup>th</sup>

## Web Sites

Dallas Heritage Village  
[www.oldcitypark.org](http://www.oldcitypark.org)

Heritage Farmstead:  
[www.heritagefarmstead.org](http://www.heritagefarmstead.org)

Owen’s Spring Creek Farm:  
[www.owensinc.com](http://www.owensinc.com)

Cavanaugh Flight Museum:  
[www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com](http://www.cavanaughflightmuseum.com)

Heard Museum:  
[www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

Dallas Arboretum:  
[www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org)

Museum of Nature & Science:  
[www.natureandscience.org](http://www.natureandscience.org)

Dallas World Aquarium:  
[www.dwazoo.com](http://www.dwazoo.com)