

Your cutie can visit farm animals in the barnyard, stroll through fields of wildflowers, and enjoy wagon rides at Dewberry Farm

# 15 FALL FIELD TRIPS

for Katy Families

EMBARK ON AN EDUCATIONAL  
FAMILY ADVENTURE THIS FALL

*Written by Kirsten Ham*

**F**ew things are as exciting as piling the family into the car for a surprise family field trip. Up the fun by involving everyone in the selection process. Write down several choices, place them in sealed envelopes, and have someone choose the mystery location. We've uncovered a few hidden gems to get you started!



## 1. BLUE BELL CREAMERY

1101 S. Blue Bell Rd. | Brenham  
800-327-8135 | [bluebell.com](http://bluebell.com)

Since the 1900s, Blue Bell Creamery has been dishing up delicious frozen treats. This fall, you and your family can see just how it's done! Their tours not only include watching the magic happen firsthand, but videos, photographs, and displays, as well. Top off a great trip with your favorite flavor of complimentary ice cream in their parlor. Please check ahead to be sure production is running on the day of your visit.

## 2. HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

5555 Hermann Park Dr. | Houston  
713-639-4629 | [hmns.org](http://hmns.org)

Whether it's visiting the conservatory in the Cockrell Butterfly Center or taking in a 3D film on the giant screen, your child will love feeding their natural curiosity. Boasting over 400 fossils in the paleontology exhibit and stunning crystalized members of the mineral kingdom, HMNS provides permanent exhibits ready to enjoy year-round. The planetarium provides a 360-degree view of Mayan prophecies, space, and black holes. Check their site for a list of available viewings. Sign up for their e-newsletter to stay up to date on the many traveling exhibitions.

## 3. GRUENE HISTORIC DISTRICT

830-629-5077 | [gruenetexas.com](http://gruenetexas.com)

Nestled on the banks of the Guadalupe River, Gruene's historic district offers opportunities to eat, shop, and play. Watch the potter's workshop in the 1870s barn, fly fish for rainbow trout year-round, or indulge in a relaxing trip to the spa. Gruene Hall has live music every day of the week; browse their calendar for a schedule of bands, like Reckless Kelly and Los Lonely Boys.

## 4. HOUSTON ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER

4501 Woodway Dr. | Houston  
713-681-8433 | [houstonarboretum.org](http://houstonarboretum.org)

With programs for children of all age groups, the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center offers fun, free nature education in the heart of Houston. Explore amphibians, plants, reptiles, birds, mammals, and the habitats they live in. Have a ball at the ArBOOretum, where costumed participants hike the forest trails with scattered trick-or-treat locations.



BLUE BELL CREAMERY

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE



GRUENE HISTORIC DISTRICT



HOUSTON ARBORETUM AND NATURE CENTER





## 5. HOUSTON ZOO

1513 Cambridge | Houston  
713-533-6500 | houstonzoo.org

From the elephant baths to the Zooper Challenge, this 55-acre zoological park located in the heart of Houston is a must-see attraction. Fill your family's day with a movie at the 4-D Experience theater, take a break at Story Safari, see a giraffe feeding, or even enjoy a picnic lunch at the McGovern Children's Zoo. Don't miss the zoo's events this fall, including Get out and Play, Zoo Boo, and Feast with the Beasts.



HOUSTON ZOO

## 6. KATY HERITAGE PARK

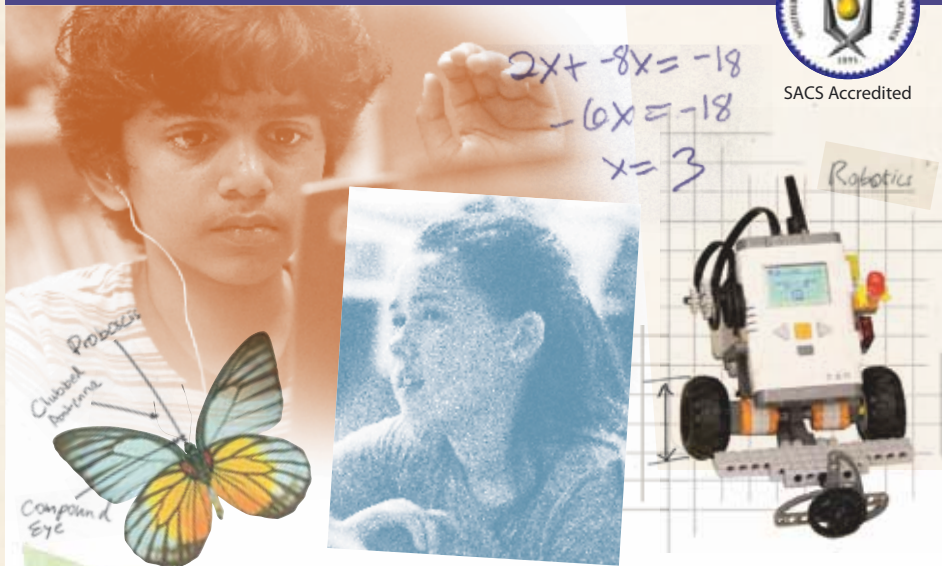
5990 George Bush Dr. | Katy  
281-391-2550 | kathyheritagesociety.com

With antique farming equipment, scores of photographs, and homes displayed as if they were frozen in time, Katy Heritage Park offers a unique glance into the area's history. Stately homes poised on beautifully landscaped grounds invite families to learn, picnic, and play. See their website for tour days and times, as well as information about scheduling special tours.



KATY HERITAGE PARK

**MAKE THE CHOICE.  
DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE.**



SACS Accredited

- Small class size and nurturing environment
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Preparing students for 21st century challenges
- Advanced educational technology
- Project-based, integrated learning
- Critical-thinking, peacemaking and problem-solving skills
- Outdoor Classroom program (nature studies)
- Community service

Call and schedule a tour.

*The Branch School*  
PRESCHOOL ~ 8TH GRADE

713-465-0288 ■ thebranchschool.org



*Located in West Houston  
~ close to Energy Corridor*



## 7. MATT FAMILY ORCHARD

21110 Bauer Hockley Rd. | Tomball  
281-351-7676 | [mattfamilyorchard.com](http://mattfamilyorchard.com)

Katyites ages 1 to 99 enjoy the fresh air and country atmosphere of Matt Family Orchard. Orchards of blueberries, figs, jujube, blueberries, and Asian persimmons are sprawled across 40 acres. Families can pick their own fruit, enjoy a picnic, take walks, or simply breathe in the fresh air. Children will also enjoy volleyball, tetherball, hay stacks, and a tire swing suspended 20 feet in the air. Personal tours are available and include camp fires, s'mores, hotdogs, and an educational hayride, as well as a pumpkin to take home.



MATT FAMILY ORCHARD

## 8. NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER

7112 Newcastle | Bellaire  
713-667-6550 | [naturediscoverycenter.org](http://naturediscoverycenter.org)

Are your cuties curious about creepy crawly things? Nature Discovery Center provides interactive exhibits featuring live animals free of charge. Catch a closer look at rabbits, quail, lizards, snakes, turtles, and more in a laid-back, comfortable, and safe environment. Begin the fun before you arrive with scavenger hunts, nature challenges, and other printable activities found on the center's website.



NATURE DISCOVERY CENTER

## 9. OIL RANCH

23501 Macedonia Rd. | Hockley  
281-859-1616 | [oilranch.com](http://oilranch.com)

Love seeing your family bond over old-fashioned fun? Less than an hour from Katy, the Oil Ranch offers many fun and educational activities with a Texas ranch theme. After visiting the dairy barn, petting zoo, beef exhibit, and Indian village, grab a barbecue sandwich and take a rest by the pond. Be sure to pencil in time for the pumpkin patch and scarecrow festival, which kick off the first of October.

OIL RANCH



## 10. DEWBERRY FARM

FM 362 and Morrison Rd. | Brookshire  
866-908-3276 | [dewberryfarm.com](http://dewberryfarm.com)

Prepare for farm fresh fun only a short drive from Katy. If pedal carts, jumping pillow slides, corn cannons, zip lining, pig races, pony rides, and flinger swings don't wear you out, Dewberry Farm has even more to offer! Stroll through the barn featuring over 500 artist-carved pumpkins, climb Fort Dewhickey, take in a singing chicken show, or navigate through an eight-acre corn maze. Select activities carry additional fees and are listed on their website. Get your shutterbug ready as Dewberry Farm boasts excellent photo opportunities.

DEWBERRY FARM





## 11. HEALTH MUSEUM

1515 Hermann Dr. | Houston  
713-521-1515 | [mhms.org](http://mhms.org)

Filled with interactive exhibits, the Health Museum is a great place for families to learn together. Make sure to visit Siegfried for Skeletons this fall and vote on your favorite papier-mâché creation. Your family can also don your own costumes at the annual Run for Your Life race, which includes a 1K.

## 12. ROSENBERG RAILROAD MUSEUM

1921 Ave. F | Rosenberg  
281-633-2846 | [rosenbergrrmuseum.org](http://rosenbergrrmuseum.org)

Did you know that before 1883, there were no time zones? Learn more fun facts as you peruse exhibits like the Education Station and the mysterious Old City Jail at the Rosenberg Railroad Museum. Modeled after the original depot, the museum houses a variety of unique treasures.

## 13. LONE STAR FLIGHT MUSEUM

2002 Terminal Dr. | Galveston  
409-740-7722 | [lsfm.org](http://lsfm.org)

Your family can have the true Warbird experience by taking a ride in the historic B-17 Flying Fortress, B-25 Mitchell, AT-6 Texan, or the PT-17 Stearman. Encourage the study of aviation through historically significant artifact exhibits, interpretive educational exhibits, and special events.

## 14. VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM KATY

6206 George Bush Dr. | Katy  
281-391-8387

Marine uniforms watch over historical books as visitors marvel at war artifacts ranging from apparel to weaponry. Children can enjoy the many patches and medals featured at the G.I. Joe Museum. The museum offers a wealth of fun facts about Texas' early days, perfect for any history buff.

## 15. HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM

2403 Milam St. | Houston  
713-524-2526 | [houstonfiremuseum.org](http://houstonfiremuseum.org)

Families can interact and learn more about fire safety. Visit Station 7 ½, where kids can dress in boots and a helmet, work on a fire truck, get a hose ready for a fire call, or slide down the pole. Tyke Town's programs are ideal for fire bugs ages 3 to 8 years old.



*KIRSTEN HAM is one of the magazine's editorial coordinators and enjoys looking for new, fun field trips to enjoy with her mentee, Aurial.*

### HEALTH MUSEUM



### ROSENBERG RAILROAD MUSEUM



### VETERANS MEMORIAL MUSEUM KATY



### HOUSTON FIRE MUSEUM

