



DALLAS ARBORETUM

# Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden

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## **The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary September 21-23 During Autumn at the Arboretum Opening**

*More than 1.7 million people have visited scientific garden*

**(Dallas, TEXAS) August 2, 2018** – The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden celebrates the fifth anniversary of the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden (RMCAG) Sept. 21 to 23 with a birthday party and other festive events. The public is invited to celebrate the garden's fifth birthday with *Peter and Wendy* for Autumn at the Arboretum's theme *The Adventures in Neverland*. The festivities coincide with the opening of Autumn at the Arboretum and Hispanic Heritage Month with the first-ever *quinceañera* fashion show, both taking place on Sept. 22. RMCAG admission for this weekend is free with paid general admission.

On Friday, Sept. 21 at 5:30 p.m., the community is invited to a celebratory birthday cake cutting with Mary Brinegar, president of the Dallas Arboretum, and other Children's Adventure Garden founders (*first come, first served with purchase of general garden admission; members are free; pre-registration is [required](#) starting Sept. 1*).

Kelsey Carter, RMCAG programs manager, "We invite the community to join us. Throughout the weekend, discover excursions fit for pirates, fairies and for those who never want to grow up like playing *Lost Boys* games, crafting fairy dust and drawing shadows. We'll even have a scavenger hunt for lucky pirate treasure and a giant birthday card to sign. Visitors will also have an opportunity to get their photos taken in Cinderella's Carriage (on display in the Glade) as the fall kicks off 'Fall is for Fairy Tales' with story time and activities."

Since the opening of the Children's Adventure Garden five years ago, more than 1.7 million people and children visited or attended field trips to this 8-acre interactive garden. With 17 indoor-outdoor galleries designed for science learning objectives, the Children's Adventure Garden is revolutionizing the landscape of interactive learning through a unique blend of innovative technology, 150 interactive exhibits and natural elements. The displays revolve around STEAM—science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

"With the addition of the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden, the Dallas Arboretum Educational Department has been able to increase and expand our educational offerings to

more than 150 programs and lessons that include onsite field trips, in-school classrooms, afterschool programs and professional development,” said J. Mark Wolf, Dallas Arboretum board chairman.

The Dallas Arboretum is setting the gold standard for outdoor children’s facilities with this garden—one of the only children’s educational garden of its scope in the world. The Children’s Adventure Garden is a premier educational facility focusing on K-6 life and earth science based on the state of Texas curriculum standards. Programming provides enriched science and STEM experiential learning opportunities to enhance student learning. Concepts include photosynthesis, pollination, the solar system, erosion and energy.

Wolf added, “We’ve added another educational component for educators to complement their science teaching and have heard from them, students and families, how the garden has sparked their interest in the sciences.”

Among the engaging features are Texas Native Wetlands, a 240-foot treetop skywalk, a “Honey I Shrunk the Kids”-inspired world about the importance of plants and its parts, and a 9,100-square-foot Exploration Center equipped with the OmniGlobe. As one of eight in Texas, the OmniGlobe allows interactive animations to demonstrate up-to-date weather with an eight second delay, ecosystems, climate-related images, atmospheric changes and the solar system. The garden is certified as a Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation, certified as a Monarch Waystation and is a Texas Aquatic Science certified field site. It received a Thea Award for “Outstanding Achievement as a Science/Discovery Garden.”

The Children’s Adventure Garden was made possible by the generous support of the City of Dallas, private and corporate donors. The lead gift was provided by Howard Meyers and his sons in honor of his wife and their mother, Rory Meyers, who served as a longtime Dallas Arboretum board member and Education Committee chair. The Dallas Arboretum named the garden after her.

**About the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden:**

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located on the southeastern shore of White Rock Lake at 8525 Garland Road, Dallas, Texas 75218. The Dallas Arboretum is also the home of the internationally acclaimed Rory Meyers Children’s Adventure Garden. It is open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular general admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, \$10 for children 2-12 and free for Arboretum members and children two and under. See website for special discounts. There is an additional cost of \$3 per person for entrance into the Rory Meyers Children’s Adventure Garden. On-site parking is \$15; pre-purchased online parking is \$9. *The Dallas Morning News* is the principal partner of the Dallas Arboretum. The Arboretum is supported, in part, by funds from the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. WFAA is an official media sponsor for the Dallas Arboretum. For more information, call 214.515.6500 or visit [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

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