

Foreco's Garden- an exploration of the forest ecosystem

Earth is a garden that we all share! In this field trip, young learners start their adventure with a puppet show that introduces the role of different plants and animals in the forest ecosystem. Children will meet characters such as Foreco, the manager of the forest ecosystem, Suga Magnolia who is in charge of pollination, and Oli Earthworm who takes care of the soil. Then the outdoor adventures begin! With sensory-filled activities, students will be guided through the surrounding gardens and forest. Through role playing, blindfolds, and underground investigations, children learn how to read and care for the forest landscape.

Grades: pre-K through 2

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Feb-May

Group Size: 20-60

Program Length: 1.5 hours

Healing Medicinal Plants

Native plants of the Southeastern forests have been used for hundreds of years to treat common ailments. In this field trip, students will investigate the properties of medicinal plants in the Garden's Herb and Physic Gardens. Through discovery hunts, hands-on science experiments with chromatography, investigating the consequences of over collecting medicinal plants, and making herbal products for take-home medicinal first-aid kit, students will learn about the importance of plants in the past and present medical world.

Grades: 5-12

Fee: \$6/student

Available: Sept- Nov and Jan-May

Group Size: 20-30

Program Length: 2.5 hours

Treats and Treasures from the Botanical World

In this field trip adventure, students learn that Georgia's landscapes, kitchens, medicine cabinets and households are filled with plant products from around the world. Students will participate in a variety of activities and explorations that teach about the importance of native and non-native plants. For example, "The Plant is Right" game highlights the importance of plants in common household products. While in the International Garden, students complete a Plant Explorer's Hunt that illustrates the functional and medicinal importance of plants from around the world. Come along on this adventure to discover the wonderful world of plants!

Grades: 3-5

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov, and Feb-May

Group Size: 20-60

Program Length: 2 hours

Really Remarkable Rainforests

An amazing array of plants and animals live in the tropical rainforests of the world. Even though rainforests are located thousands of miles away, students learn that the rainforest is important to our daily lives. Learners get to see and explore this unique ecosystem in our Rainforest Conservatory. A rainforest puppet show and mural activity, a plant discovery hunt, a microscope investigation and other hands-on activities help children explore the world of tropical rainforest, plant adaptations and conservation.

Grades: 1-5

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Jan-May

Group Size: 20-30

Program Length: 2 hours

Our Shared Forests—an exploration of bird migration

Come learn about the wild world of Neotropical migratory birds! Students will learn the importance of preserving both Georgia forests (the birds' summer habitat) and the rainforests (where these birds spend their winters). Field trip activities include a bird habitat hunt, bird observation and ID at feeding stations, a microscope investigation and a migration game. Furthermore, students will get to see an example of a tropical habitat in our rainforest conservatory! A puppet show is included for younger learners.

Grades: 2-5

Fee: \$4/student

Group Size: 20-30

Available: Sept-Nov and Feb-May

Program Length: 2 hours

Stream Ecology Adventures

Our local watersheds critically impact our daily lives, from the foods we eat to the health of our drinking water. Starting in our indoor classroom, students will use a watershed model to investigate the impact that people have on aquatic ecosystems and discuss ways to conserve this valuable resource. Lead by our field trip instructors, learners will then hike down to our woodland stream to get their hands in the water, catching different critters for identification! Based on the diversity of captured organisms, water temperature, and pH, students will get to assess the stream's water quality.

Grades: 3-7

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Mar-May

Group Size: 20-40

Program Length: 2 hours

Eco-Health- measuring the vitality of our forests and floodplains

In this excursion, students will investigate the health of several Georgia Piedmont ecosystems, specifically looking at the effects of invasive species along river floodplains. During a hike that wanders through the Oak-Hickory forest and floodplain, learners will use a variety of scientific techniques to study soil, plant diversity, bug diversity and air quality. As learners hike along the Oconee River, they will explore both a floodplain overrun with invasive species and our new floodplain restoration project. This adventure ends at the Botanical Garden's Center for Native Plant Studies, where students will get to talk meet conservation ecologists, who work to restore the river-front with native plants.

Grades: 4-12

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Mar-May

Group Size: 20-60

Program Length: 3 hours

Schoolyard Ecology- bring the Botanical Garden Field Teachers to your school!

What kind of plants and animals are living right outside your classroom door? Bring our Field Teachers to your school for an hour and a half of ecological learning and fun! Starting with a puppet show in your classroom and ending with an hour of hands-on exploration around your school site, we will explore the natural world. Programs can be tailored to fit your current curriculum! Choose from plants, ecosystems, soils, aquatic life, gardening, or birds as a main topic.

Grades: K-8

Fee: \$4/student

Available: November- March

Group Size: 20-60

Program Length: 1.5 hours