

## **State Botanical Garden of Georgia Field Trips**

### ***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 2nd

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Feb-May

Group Size: up to 60

Program Length: 1.5 hours

### ***Plants We Use: Treats and Treasures***

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: 3rd-5th

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Dec, and Feb-May

Group Size: up to 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, searching for images of animals and other hands-on activities help children explore the world of tropical rainforest, plant adaptations and conservation.

Grades: 1st-5th

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Dec and Feb-May

Group Size: up to 30

Program Length: 2 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 remedy kits, students will learn about the importance of plants in the past and present medical world.

Grades: 5th-12th

Fee: \$6/student

Available: Sept-Dec and Feb-May

Group Size: up to 30

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. Led 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: 3rd-7th

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Mar-May

Group Size: up to 30

Program Length: 2 hours

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

In this excursion, students will determine the overall health of several Georgia Piedmont ecosystems, investigating 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, invertebrate diversity and air quality. As learners hike along the Oconee River, they will explore our floodplain restoration project.

Grades: 4th-12th

Fee: \$4/student

Available: Sept-Nov and Mar-May

Group Size: up to 50

Program Length: 2.5 hours