

School Field Trips Green Spring Gardens

Bees, Bugs & Big Trees

Bees, Bugs & Big Trees is a nature program that integrates the Virginia Standards of Learning (Science SOL 1.4, 1.7, 1.8) for first-grade students. The program begins with a Native American tale in a story circle in the Horticulture Center, then moves outdoors for the following three-station rotation.

Pollination Station

Students visit the orchard to learn how an apple develops from a flower. Flower parts are examined along with the important role of bees and other pollinators in fruit production. Students will *buzz* through the orchard to move *pollen* from one flower to another in a pollination game. *Pollinators* are then rewarded with fresh, delicious apple slices.



Decomposition Station

What happens to all those leaves that fall to the ground year after year? Students learn about nature's ingenious method of garbage disposal and the important role of a myriad of creepy, crawly decomposers. Students demonstrate the difference between composting and recycling in a sorting game, followed by a surprise snack of gummy worms.

Tree Identification Station

A woodland hike through the Virginia Native Plant Garden introduces students to tree identification, starting with the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. Students and leaders will be provided with materials to help identify native trees by examining leaf and bark characteristics. Then enjoy a *twiggy treat!*



Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road · Alexandria, VA 22312
703-642-5173 · FAX 703-642-8095 · TTY 703-803-3354
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring

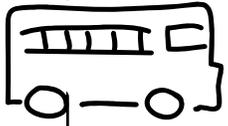


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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before event.





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Additional Activities and Resources

Activities

- Plant a garden to attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. If a garden plot is not available, use a window box or container.
- Make models of flowers using classroom materials (clay, cardboard, tissues, pipe cleaners) to simulate different flower parts and demonstrate pollination.
- Choose a tree and make a scrapbook of observations—measure the tree, photograph and sketch it. Press its leaves and blossoms, make bark rubbings and record the animals that live in it.
- Start an outdoor compost heap or bin or make indoor compost in a bag.

Books for Teachers

The Complete Backyard Nature Activity Book by Robin Michael Koontz
ISBN 0-07-037134-2

Simple building and gardening projects to create backyard habitats for birds, butterflies, frogs, bats and other small creatures.

The Kids' Nature Book by Susan Milord
ISBN 1-885593-07-4

Indoor and outdoor activities, poems and stories to explore nature throughout the year.

Kids' Garden by Avery Hart and Paul Mantell
ISBN 0-913589-90-X

Indoor and outdoor gardening activities for kids.

Additional Reading and References for Students

Apples by Gail Gibbons
ISBN 0-8234-1497-3

Explains how apples grow, their uses, cultural importance and some of the varieties grown.

The Life and Times of the Apple by Charles Micucci
ISBN 0-531-07067-0

This entertaining look at the apple's life cycle and history includes a simple and effective description of parts of the apple flower and explanation of the pollination process.



Tell Me Tree by Gail Gibbons

ISBN 0-316-30903-6

A kids' guide to the wide variety of trees that surround us.

Fandex Family Field Guide — Trees, North American Trees Identified by Leaf, Bark & Seed

ISBN 0-7611-1204-9

Workman Publishing, New York

Compost! Growing Gardens from Your Garbage by Linda Glaser

ISBN 0-613-03113-X

Other Resources

Smithsonian Butterfly Garden at the National Museum of Natural History :

www.nmnh.si.edu/museum/butterfly.html

For scheduling a group visit to the O. Orkin Insect Zoo and the Butterfly Garden, contact the NMNH Department of Education at 202-357-2747.

National Wildlife Federation - Backyard Habitat Program: www.nwf.org/habitats/

USDA Forest Service - "Just for Kids" information on trees: www.fs.fed.us/kids/

National Arbor Day Foundation - Includes tree information for kids, classroom activities and games: www.arborday.org.

National Resources Conservation Service - includes activities and information for kids on natural resources and recycling through composting: www.nrcs.usda.gov.



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