

Field Trips at The Arb!



General information for school groups:

Field trips to The Arboretum engage students with unique resources and hands-on experiences. Home to greenhouses, gardens, and natural habitats, the Arboretum offers your students the opportunity to discover and enjoy all aspects of the natural world. Self-guided and docent-led programs are available on the unparalleled ecology, botany, and science of the Colorado Plateau. With a place-based focus, our school programs (K-5) are aligned with Arizona science standards and intersect with Next Generation Science Standards.

Field trip details:

- Field trips are available April 15 - October 31, except Tuesdays when we are closed to the public.
- Docent-led school programs last approximately 1.5-2 hours (1 hour grade-specific program plus optional mini-hike through the Arboretum).
- May 25 - October 1 (weather dependent), students may visit our Southwest Butterfly House!
- Your group is welcome to enjoy lunch in our picnic area before or after your program.

Field trip rates:

Docent-led Programs	\$5.00 per student
1 adult per 6 students	Free
Additional adults (beyond 1 per 6 students)	\$4.00 per adult
Self-Guided School Tour groups	\$3.00 per student (includes 8-page guide)

Scheduling your visit:

Please use our online form to request an Arboretum field trip: [Field Trip Request Form](#)

We look forward to responding as soon as possible. Please call 928-774-1442 ext. 110 or email education@thearb.org if you have questions prior to completing this form.

Field Trip Programs

All Grades: Mini-Hike. The 30-45 minute mini-hike will take place in the areas of the Arboretum not covered in the field trip portion. These areas include the greenhouse, the pond, the herb garden, and the trails connecting these areas. Mini-hikes will be tailored individually for each group.

Grade-Specific Programs. 45-60 minutes

Preschool / Kindergarten: The Five-Alive Senses

Students will be led through the Arboretum grounds where they will practice using all five senses and discover the ways our senses can be used to explore nature. Highlights include listening to frogs and birds by the pond, smelling plants in the Herb Garden, and feeling different types of conifers on the woodland path. *This program is in combination with the mini-hike.

Grade 1: Our Homes in the Forest (formerly Life in the Trees)

This program introduces students to the concept of habitat by relating their homes to animal homes. Students learn that animals need a place to live, food to eat, and water to drink - just like we do! We specifically explore the relationships between Abert's squirrels, birds, insects, and ponderosa pines as we make our way through the forest.

Grade 2: Life Cycles on the Colorado Plateau (formerly Riparian Rascals)

Students will learn about and compare the different stages in the development of a Western Chorus Frog and a Dragonfly/Damselfly as well as other seasonal plants and animals. They will spend time investigating organisms found in the Arboretum pond and work together to identify the life cycle stage of each critter discovered.

Grade 3: Animal Needs and Adaptations (formerly Water Bug Naturalist)

Students will learn about the importance of riparian areas to plants and wildlife in Arizona as well as the adaptations needed for living in water at different stages of life. They will explore, identify, and share their findings about aquatic invertebrates in the Arboretum's riparian areas with classmates.

Grade 4: Plant Superheroes (formerly Hardy Adaptations)

Plant superheroes don't always wear capes! What would happen if we had no plants? Students discover why we need plants and how plants are able to thrive in our arid, high-elevation ecosystem. Students engage in hands-on activities that help build observation skills and promote critical thinking about the plant world and its amazing adaptations.

Grade 5: Fifth Grade Foresters (Ecology of the Forest)

Students will learn about forest ecology and will be able to recognize indicators of healthy and unhealthy forests in our fire-adapted ecosystem. Students will become foresters for a day. Practicing science skills, students evaluate sections of the forest and offer solutions for improving forest health.

Grades 6-8: Climate Change Perspectives

Students will learn about climate change through the lens of plant-energy relationships within ecosystems and consider our role as humans in a changing world. We visit the Arb's Climate Change Center and Phenology Garden to observe the work of past scientists and engage in citizen science.

***NEW* Grades 5-12: Service-Learning Program**

Want to learn by doing? We can match your group with a current garden project, and students can make a difference as they learn about the Colorado Plateau. Get your hands dirty while working together on your next class field trip!

