BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

Living Lab Program
Thematic Grade-Specific Workshops

These field trips/workshops are in-person at the Bellevue Botanical Garden with a choice of the thematic grade-specific workshops listed below. Most workshops are 2 hours with 4th and 5th grade being 2.5 hours.

Workshop Descriptions with suggested grade levels:

"Tree"-mendous Trees (Kindergarten): Students learn about leaves and types of trees with the focus on patterns and observation. They will learn about the properties of leaves, make a leaf rubbing, and make individual observations of a leaf using their senses. They will also learn about the parts of trees and their functions and do a role play. Students will sort items made and not made from tree materials and make two items from wood materials to take home: a wooden pendant and a paper plate with their age in tree rings. While walking in the Garden the focus will be on types of trees, leaves and bark texture. (FOSS: Trees & Weather)

Zany Earthworms (Kindergarten): Students learn about two kinds of worms: nightcrawlers and red worms. They will examine live worms and compare them. We talk about composting and how some worms are composters, and some are not. The Garden walk covers looking at soils and talking about compost and the decomposers that live at the Garden. (FOSS: Animals Two by Two)

Happy Habitats (1st grade) –In the animal adaptions section, students are challenged to find out which bird beaks work best with different bird foods. They will play a game which models how birds look for prey and how prey can camouflage itself. There is a food web activity with discussion of predators and prey and the role of plants. The take-home is a bird puppet craft. They will also tour parts of the Garden with a focus on bird habitats. (FOSS: Plants and Animals)

Flower Power (1st grade): Students are challenged to figure out the "power of the flower." Students will use hand lenses to observe and learn about flower parts and their function. A role-play is used to help them learn about the parts of a flower. They learn about the relationship between pollinators and flowers by making paper butterflies and playing a pollination game. The walk through the garden focuses on looking for pollinators and at flower parts.

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Super Soils (2nd Grade): Students are challenged to find the best soil for a specific plant. By observing four soils (pebbles, sand, clay [silt] and loam) students learn to identify each. They then experiment with "perk" tests for each soil type to discover the rate at which water percolates (flows) through them. The inquiry process is incorporated. They learn about the composition of soil, follow a soil recipe, and plant a hens-and-chicks plant to take home. The students will go for a walk through the Garden looking at different types of soil. (FOSS: Pebbles, Sand, and Silt)

Plant Power & Pollinators (2nd grade): Students will review plant parts by dissecting a flower and doing a mystery box activity. They will play games to learn about the life cycle of plants and how they are pollinated. On a walk in the Garden, students will look for pollinators and plant parts. (FOSS- Insects and Plants)

Water Works (3rd Grade): The students learn about how the water cycle impacts and interacts with different environments, natural and man-made, at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. They learn about water's effect in its different phases. They explore the needs of plants as they relate to water and soil components. They observe differences in filtration and make a rain gauge. They learn about water as a renewable resource and the importance of water conservation. They are encouraged to be wise about their use of water. (FOSS – Water & Climate)

Propagation Celebration (3rd Grade): Students explore plant life cycles and identify specific plant traits. They learn ways plants reproduce, and how they can be propagated, including through seeds, bulbs, tubers, and runners. They investigate seed dispersion. They observe propagation techniques used at BBG such as cuttings, division, layering, and grafting. They practice plant propagation by starting their own plant cuttings. (FOSS - Structures of Life Module)

Native Plants in Our Lives (4th or 5th Grade): The group is challenged to learn to identify 8 native plants well known to local Native Americans and learn about the plants' uses in supporting daily needs and technology then and now. Students apply this new knowledge to a challenge in which they work together to identify plants at a site in the Garden. This workshop is best done in a 2.5 hour timeframe.

Garden Design Challenge (4th or 5th grade): Students are challenged to research a specific plant and then choose where that plant would go in a simulated park environment. Students will work in small groups to locate their specific plant at the botanical Garden and report on the information they gain about the plant. This involves map reading, drawing, and some basic landscaping design skills. We talk about soil conditions, sunlight requirements, scientific names (genus, species, family), botany, landscaping, native & invasive species, topography, and climate zones. (FOSS: Environments) This workshop is best done in a 2.5 hour timeframe.

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Request a Field Trip

To request a field trip, you must **submit your request online**.

Other Options

We are happy to work with you on a program to meet your needs.

Virtual

We can provide a speaker to do a virtual talk online with your group.

At Your School

We can bring programming to your school. We prefer Thursdays or weekday afternoons. There is a fee for this program. Currently, we have the following topics:
Leaves – preschool, lower elementary
Flowers – lower elementary
Ecosystems – upper elementary, ties in well with 5th grade standards

Questions?

Please **email us** or call 425-675-5760.