

Field Trip Offerings for 2017-2018 School Year



THE BRENTON ARBORETUM

Field Trip Planning Guide

Thank you for considering a field trip to the Brenton Arboretum! We boast over 140 acres of reclaimed farmland made up of rolling hills, streams, prairies, ponds, wetlands, and of course, over 2,200 different trees and shrubs representing more than 480 species, hybrids, and cultivars.

Through our various field trip programs, the Arboretum seeks to connect children of all ages to trees and the environment by providing meaningful field experiences that often include nature play.

FAQ

How many students can you accommodate?

To ensure the best student experience, the maximum number of students per unit is 30 (20 for Pre-K). Multiple units happen simultaneously and go in a round-robin rotation.

Our Pre-K trips can accommodate up to 40 students; all other field trips can accommodate up to 90 students. Larger groups should consider multiple visits over several days, though we may also be able to do a longer program to accommodate up to 120 students.

How long do field trips take?

Each unit is 30 minutes. Total program times will include time for switching locations between units (about 5 minutes per switch), time for arrival and restrooms (about 15 minutes), and time for a brief wrap up (about 5 minutes). Total time "on the grounds" is about 2 hours for most programs.

Don't forget to factor in travel time! Choose a start time that will accommodate your school's bussing schedule and will allow you to arrive at your scheduled time. While we can shorten units when necessary due to late arrivals, early departures, or special requests ahead of time, we feel the students get the best experience when everyone has enough time.

Many groups choose to bring sack lunches to eat under our green-roofed pavilion, either before or after their scheduled field trip. Please let us know if you plan to use the Pavilion for lunch!

What if it rains?

Field trips will generally run rain or shine, so be sure your students are prepared. Students learn best when they're comfortable, so appropriate footwear and outerwear are always important,

especially if there's a little rain in the forecast.

In the event of severe weather (any thunder, lightning, or weather warnings) on your scheduled field trip date, we will bring a shortened indoor program (45-60 minutes) to your school during your originally scheduled field trip time. This decision will be made between the scheduling teacher and the Education Manager as soon as the need becomes apparent.

Are there bathrooms/water fountains/trash cans?

There is **one** porta potty at the Pavilion. At the administration building there are **two** modern toilets and a drinking fountain to fill water bottles. Please arrive early to use the facilities at the admin building if your students will all need to go. We plan 15 minutes for restrooms (at the Pavilion) and sunscreen at the beginning of the field trip, but large groups will likely need more time.

There is no running water at the Pavilion, and there are no trash cans. We can provide a 5 gallon water jug upon request, but it is best if your students bring filled water bottles with them. If you're having lunch, you will need to bring trash bag and take your trash with you.



The Nature Explore Certified O'Brien Nature Play Area is just one of many areas for your group to explore at The Brenton Arboretum.

THE KNEE-HIGH NATURALIST PROGRAM WON THE 2011 URBAN FORESTRY YOUTH PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING URBAN FORESTRY WORK IN THE CITY OF DALLAS CENTER FROM THE IOWA URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL.

THE SAME YEAR, THE PROGRAM WON THE OUTSTANDING YOUTH PROGRAM AWARD FROM TREES FOREVER.

WE ARE PROUD OF THE PROGRAM WE HAVE DEVELOPED, KNOWING THAT THE FIELD EXPERIENCES WE PROVIDE SUPPORT BASIC SCIENCE CONCEPTS AND EMPHASIZE THE ENJOYMENT OF SPENDING TIME IN NATURE.



Field Trip Offerings for 2017-2018 School Year

Pavilion & Nature Play Area

Our green-roofed pavilion is a great space out of the sun for your students to enjoy sack lunches before or after a field trip. Please bring your own trash bags and pack out all trash with you.

The O'Brien Nature Play Area makes an ideal place for free play time after a field trip! Children enjoy scrambling, swinging, climbing, building, and creating. **If you're short on time, you may replace any unit in your trip with time at the Nature Play Area.**

The Pavilion and Nature Play Area are available on a first-come first-served basis and are **not** reserved for field trip groups.

Inchworm Investigators (Pre-K+)

For our youngest explorers, we offer shorter two-unit trips. These trips take about 1.5 hours and can accommodate up to 40 students total. Each Field Group of up to 20 must include at least 3 chaperones, but you are welcome to bring more!

Natural Discovery

Unit 1: Leaf Friend

Unit 2: Insect Safari

Learning through Play

Unit 1: Nature Play

Unit 2: Nature Games



Knee-High Naturalists (K-2+)

We offer two field trip packages for the K-2 age group. Each trip consists of three units and takes 2 hours to complete. Three-unit trips can accommodate up to 90 students. For groups up to 120 students, please contact us about adding a fourth unit, or consider scheduling multiple days. Each group *must* include at least one adult chaperone, but are welcome to include more.

Classic Field Trip

This is our Award-winning Knee-High Naturalist field trip that has is the standard of excellence at the Arboretum.

Unit 1: Leaf Friend

Unit 2: Aquatic Odyssey

Unit 3: Insect Safari

Sensory Adventure

This newly added field trip focuses on experiencing the natural world—and separating the natural world from everything else—by using four of our five basic senses.

Unit 1: Four Senses Walk

Unit 2: Un-Nature Walk

Unit 3: Nature Games

Young Explorers (3-8)

Our Young Explorers program is designed to take students further in-depth into some of our favorite focus areas. Each field trip package has three units, which take a total of 2 hours to complete and can accommodate up to 90 students. For groups up to 120 students, please contact us about adding a fourth unit, or consider scheduling multiple days. Each group *must* include at least one adult chaperone, but are welcome to include more..

Trees of Life

This field trip is all about trees, from how they grow to the roles they play in ecosystems.

Unit 1: Me, A Tree

Unit 2: Tree Life Scavenger Hunt

Unit 3: Leaf Friend

Wonders of Wildlife

This field trip focuses more specifically on the elements of habitat and special adaptations various animals have to survive.

Unit 1: Tree House

Unit 2: Aquatic Odyssey

Unit 3: Insect Safari

Field Trip Offerings for 2017-2018 School Year

Activity Descriptions

Activity Title	Activity Description	Grade Suitability
Aquatic Odyssey	Students will explore the aquatic life of the ponds at the Arboretum with nets and buckets. There is potential to get wet or muddy.	K-2, 3-5, 6-8
Four Senses Walk	Students will go on a walk through the Arboretum to discover sights, sounds, smells, and textures of the plants and animals that surround them.	PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8
Insect Safari	Students will learn about insects by carefully catching and studying live insects before releasing them back into their habitat.	PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8
Leaf Friend	Students will find a special leaf. They will then make careful observations of the characteristics their leaves. After observing them, students will try to distinguish them from other leaves.	PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8
Me, A Tree	Students will “become” parts of a tree to demonstrate how trees grow. They will then examine tree cross-sections to learn about the life of the tree each piece came from.	3-5, 6-8
Nature Games	Students will play sensory games to explore what their own senses can tell them about their surroundings and to learn how some animals use their senses to find food or protect themselves.	PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8
Nature Play	Children enjoy scrambling up hay bales, navigating stumperies, swinging, climbing, building, creating, crawling through the living tunnel, and investigating the butterfly gardens.	PK, K-2, 3-5
Tree House	Students will observe trees and shrubs at the Arboretum as habitats, looking for signs of plants and animals that call them home. They will learn the characteristics of good habitats and what they must provide for something to live there.	6-8
Tree Life Scavenger Hunt	Students will walk the Arboretum searching for specific living plants and animals associated with trees from a provided list.	3-5
Un-Nature Walk	Students will visually search for “planted” human-made items along a path at the Arboretum in a way that teaches them how to look for natural items on a nature walk.	K-2, 3-5, 6-8

Unit substitutions may be possible upon request. Please note, special requests and substitutions may cause delays in booking your trip.

2017-2018 Field Trip Booking Form

School/Group Name: _____

Teacher Contact Name: _____

Teacher Contact Phone: _____

Teacher Contact Email: _____

Reason for coming to the Arboretum:

How many students? _____

Grade level (or range): _____

Complete this form and return by email to
education@thebrentonarboretum.org
 or print and return by mail to 25141 260th St. Dallas
 Center, IA 50063 at least 4 weeks before your
 requested trip date.

**Field trips are offered Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
 8:30am-2:00pm.**

Preferred Program Date:

First choice: _____

Second choice: _____

In the event of severe weather, a shortened program will be brought to your classroom during your regularly-scheduled field trip time.

Preferred Program Time:

_____ AM starts by 10am, ends by 12:00pm _____ PM starts by 12pm, ends by 2:00pm

Arrival_____ Departure_____ Arrival_____ Departure_____

(2 hours from arrival;
1.5 hours for Pre-K)

(2 hours from arrival
1.5 hours for Pre-K)

Extras:

_____ Lunch at Pavilion _____ Use Nature Play Area _____ Water Jug

Program Selection:

Inchworm Investigators

Pre-K+

Natural Discovery

- Unit 1: Leaf Friend
- Unit 2: Insect Safari

Learning through Play

- Unit 1: Nature Play
- Unit 2: Nature Games

Knee-High Naturalists

K-2+

Classic Field Trip

- Unit 1: Leaf Friend
- Unit 2: Aquatic Odyssey
- Unit 3: Insect Safari

Sensory Adventure

- Unit 1: Four Senses Walk
- Unit 2: Un-Nature Walk
- Unit 3: Nature Games

Young Explorers

3-8

Trees of Life

- Unit 1: Me, A Tree
- Unit 2: Tree Life Scavenger Hunt
- Unit 3: Leaf Friend

Wonders of Wildlife

- Unit 1: Tree House
- Unit 2: Aquatic Odyssey
- Unit 3: Insect Safari

Please include any special requests or additional information we may need to know about your group here.
