New this Fall!
Creep, Crawl, Flutter or Fly your way to MBG this fall to see David Rogers’ Big Bugs. These larger than life bugs sculptures are created using various trees to give each bug its unique character. These big bugs are the perfect backdrop for all of our buggy programs! Don’t miss this limited-time program!

We want to come!
Go to www.memphisbotanicgarden.com/youthgroupprograms. Each category of programs are listed on the right of the screen. Go to your selected category to fill out a field trip request form. We will check availability and confirm your trip or send you a selection of alternate dates within 72 hours.

You can also schedule a program by contacting Kristen.zemaitis@memphisbotanicgarden.com or call 901-636-4126.

There is a 15 student minimum. $75 non-refundable deposit due 2 weeks before program to avoid cancellation. Remainder of payment is due the day of your trip.

Here we come!
Please be on time. We understand that sometimes this is difficult with buses. If you are running late please contact the Garden to let us know.

• Check your confirmation email to make sure buses go to the correct entrance.
• Lead teachers, please share information with other participating teachers and chaperones.
• Most Garden programs are held outdoors.
• Please have students wear shoes for walking and appropriate clothing.
• If you’re registered for a program and can’t come because of inclement weather, we will schedule your visit for the next available date.
• Please have students unload buses and wait while the lead teacher checks in at the admissions desk.
TEACHER TRAINING

Project WILD, K-8 Educators

Thursday, October 5 9:00-3:00

Students K-12 have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. This education program emphasizes wildlife to teach across the curriculum in the classroom while at the same time developing awareness and responsibility. Curriculum guide is provided to each attendee, and is correlated to National Science Standards and TN state standards. For more information, visit ProjectWild.com. Sponsored by Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Free Program. Registration required by Monday, September 25. To register call 901-636-4119 or email charity.siebert@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Project WET, K-8 educators

Tuesday, November 21 9:00-3:00

Join us for this hands-on professional workshop that includes the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide 2.0, which gives educators engaging tools for integrating water education into many subjects. We will sample a variety of these activities as well as learn about the Wolf River watershed, and local and global water issues. Though this workshop is designed for local educators, it is open to anyone who is interested in attending! This workshop is free and generously sponsored by Buckman and presented by Wolf River Conservancy and Memphis Botanic Garden.

Free Program. Registration required by Monday, Nov. 14. To register email education@wolfriver.org or visit www.wolfriver.org

MBG EDUCATION STAFF

Gina Harris, Education Director
636-4110 | gina.harris@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Kristen Zemaitis, Program Director
636-4126 | kristen.zemaitis@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Charity Siebert, Environmental Curriculum & Events Manager
636-4119 | charity.siebert@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Julie O’Bryan, Outreach Coordinator
636-4132 | julie.obryan@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Drew Massengale, My Big Backyard Manager
636-4122 | drew.massengale@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Laurie Williams, Adult Education and Horticulture Therapy Coordinator
636-4128 | laurie.williams@memphisbotanicgarden.com

Taylor Herndon, Events and Birthday Coordinator
636-4115 | taylor.herndon@memphisbotanicgarden.com
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Big Bugs at the Garden
September 18 – December 31
Self Guided Tours $5; Guided Tours - $6; Incredible Insects Class - $6
Scholarships available. Call for availability.

Eco Trek
Our Garden trail guides will outfit your explorers with an observation journal and take them on an Eco-Trek! On your adventure, students will participate activities that help understand the delicate balance of different local ecosystems. Examine why wetlands are wonderful, journey into the meadow web of life, and explore the cycles of the forest.
September 19-22, 10:00-12:00. Grades 3-6. $6 per student. Rain dates September 25-26.

Incredible Insects: featuring David Rogers’ Big Bugs
What student wouldn’t be amazed by a 25 foot long ant or an 18 foot tall praying mantis? Explore the Garden as you go on this Big Bug hunt where your students will discover why these crawlies are not so creepy after all! Buzz and flutter your way through educational crafts and activities designed to meet science standards. Stay afterwards and picnic with the ants!
October 2-6 & 9-13, 10:00-12:00. Grades 2-6. $6 per student. Rain date October 16. Limited scholarships available. Call for availability.

Harvest Festival
Treat your class to some old fashioned fun in the Garden. Make some traditional harvest crafts including cider making, pumpkin painting and corn husk flowers. Discovery stations teach fun facts about fruits and vegetables, honey making, and seed dispersal. Students will enjoy some harvest fun while jumping in a haystack and picnicking with some old time pickin’ and grinnin’!
October 17-20 & 23-27 & 30-31 Grades K-4. $6 per student. Rain dates November 1-2

Fall Colors: Trees of Tennessee
Available throughout the month of November.
Visit the Garden when the trees are at their peak of fall color. Students will learn what makes the beautiful colors, “build’ a tree, go on a scavenger hunt and plant a native tree seed to take home.
Grades 2-6. $6 per student.
Holidays Around the World
Available throughout the month of December.
Learn how children all over the world celebrate the holiday season. Experience Posada, Hanukkah, and Diwali by making pinatas, diya, and dreidels.
90 minute seasonal program.
Grades K-4. $6 per student.

Nature’s Candy Store
Available throughout the month of February.
Take your students on a “sweet” field trip! Did you know that every piece of candy comes from plants? From tree sap to bark, and even seaweed, we’ll explore the plant origins of some of their favorite treats!
90 minute seasonal program.
Grades 2-6. $6 per student.

Egg-Stravaganza
See what hatches from eggs in Spring besides baby chicks. A garden tour focuses on all kinds of animals that lay eggs, from insects to amphibians. Students observe a variety of bird eggs, from hummingbird to ostrich, and even taste fish eggs! As a special spring treat they’ll color eggs using natural plant dyes, and “plant” a basket.
90 minute seasonal program.
March 19-30. Grades K-4. $6 per student.
Rain date April 2.

Spring Festival of Flowers
Students will enjoy the Garden in FULL BLOOM at this festival! Stations throughout the Garden will feature hands on activities and discovery stations. Become a part of the Amazing Flower Story, Pollination Puppet Show, and Butterfly Life Cycle play. Each student will plant a spring blooming flower and learn what each of its parts do! Stay after for a Spring Picnic in the Garden!
April 3-6. 10:00-12:00.
Grades K-2. $6 per student.
Rain dates April 9-10.

World of Plants: An International Children’s Festival
Take your students on a trip around the world without ever leaving Memphis! Students “travel” to Africa, Asia, India, Europe, and the Americas where they will learn how different cultures use plants in their daily lives. Hands on crafts including African tribal masks, Vietnamese Non’ la hats, and Indian Rangoli showcase each area’s unique use of local plants. Students will get a real “taste” of their travels at each station. After your worldwide trip, enjoy live entertainment from Ekpe’s International Music! During this program foreign language, geography, history and plant science are all accentuated. Teachers can access an online guide that introduces students to the celebrated countries and activities.
April 24-27 & April 30-May 4 9:30-12:30. Grades 2-6. $6 per student.
Rain dates May 7-8.
PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN CLASSES

These programs are designed to fit the needs of your Pre-K or Kindergarten class by incorporating crafts with garden experiences. Each class is one hour long.

Available throughout the year.
Fee: $5 per student. Teachers free, additional chaperones $5. Programs do not include admission to My Big Backyard.

Beautiful Butterflies:
Go on a butterfly hunt, learn all about those hungry caterpillars with a fun dress-up story, create a pretty “painted lady” butterfly, and take home your own wildflower planting!

Busy Bees:
Buzz through the Garden and see these busy insects in action, taste different types of honey, practice “bee-ing” safe around bees, and learn about bee body parts, as you assemble your own bee puppet!

For the Birds:
Learn all about our feathered friends, go on a birdwatching expedition, and make a “bird buddy.”

How does your garden grow?:
Learn the difference between fruits and veggies that you eat every day. Students will make a veggie puppet and plant a piece of the garden to take home.

Wiggly Worms:
Learn all about these critters that wiggle their way through the dirt. Go on a worm hunt, hold a real worm and take home a worm craft.

Flower Power:
Tip-toe through the tulips (or whatever is in bloom!), create a “kool” flower, and plant your own flower seeds to take home.
GRADES 1-6 CLASSES

Your students will enjoy these 90-minute interactive experiences that combine garden explorations with take-home activities.

Available throughout the year. Fee: $5 per student. Teachers Free. Additional chaperones $5. Programs do not include admission to My Big Backyard.

Art of Japan:
Your students will say “Domo Arigato” (thanks!) for giving them the opportunity to learn Japanese words and calligraphy. After creating an “uchiwa” (Japanese fan) and exploring the folklore and symbolism of our Japanese Garden, students will participate in a tea ceremony.

Woodland Wonders:
Go on an adventure hike while learning about the edible and medicinal plants in “Nature’s Grocery Store.” Students will combine art and science as they learn about the ecology of the forest and create a seasonal work of art inspired by nature.

Jungle Journey:
A rainforest adventure without ever leaving the city! Learn about the plants and animals that dwell in these unique ecosystems as you tour our Tropical Greenhouse. Participate in rainforest games, taste jungle foods, and take home your own tropical plant!

Tennessee Treasures
Discover the natural wonders of Tennessee with a variety of state symbol crafts and activities. Students can “mock” a mockingbird, create a paper iris, and even dance the state dance: the Square dance!

Totally Trees:
This walk through our extensive tree collection introduces students to the fascinating stories, legends, and uses of some of our native trees. Students learn about tree structure as they “build” a tree together, dispersal adaptations as they go on a seed scavenger hunt, and plant life cycles as they investigate the trees in our Arboretum. Each student will decorate a tree cookie medallion to take home.

Basic Botany:
Investigate the basics of botany from pollination to germination and back again. Discover flower anatomy with a hands on flower dissection. Students will get to try out their “green thumbs” while planting a flower to take home.
WE CAN BRING THE GARDEN TO YOU!

These hour-long programs can be done right in your own classroom for up to 25 students per class.

All programs are $75 and must be paid 2 weeks in advance. If two or more sessions of the same program are scheduled for the same day, each session is $65 per classroom. There is a $10 service charge for schools outside of Shelby County (over 50 miles additional fees may apply) and for evening or weekend programs.

Tie-Dye... Naturally!
Let nature be your palette as your class learns the age-old tradition of tie-dye. Students will learn about the many different plants that are used to create fabrics and dyes. Each student will get to tie-dye their own t-shirts using modern-day dyes. (EACH STUDENT WILL NEED TO PROVIDE ONE PRE-WASHED, WHITE T-SHIRT AND GALLON ZIPLOCK.) Grades 1-6.

The Mystery of a Flower!
Your detectives will discover new sprouts of information as they seek out clues hidden inside a plant. Students will help Inspector Nectar solve mysteries like why some flowers are sweet and others smell like rotten meat. The presentation includes a flower dissection that teaches flower parts and seed production. Grades 3-6.

The Power of Plants
BOOM! ZAP! POW! Our green super hero, Captain Chlorophyll, will leap into your classroom and teach your students about the “super powers” behind plants used for food, medicines, and more. They will also get to experience a plant’s power first hand as they plant a seed! Grades 2-4.

The Magic of Seeds
Abracadabra, alacazam! Our plant magician, “The Amazing Green Thumb,” will share some of nature’s tricks with your class and teach about seed dispersal and the life cycle of a plant. Students will discover this magic for themselves as they touch strange seeds, dissect a peanut, and germinate their own “magical” beans. (PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS A PEANUT ALLERGY!) Grades 1-3.

Recycling Made Fun!
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is what your students will be doing after this hands-on experience! Students will examine items that they normally throw away and use creative thinking to come up with ways to turn their trash into treasure and learn about resource conservation! Using old paper scraps, they will make their own hand-made paper creation. Grades 2-6.

World Candy Explorations
Did you know that chocolate, vanilla, licorice, and cinnamon, all come from plants? Our intrepid world explorer will excite and motivate your students with a presentation that explores the plant origins of some of their favorite sweet treats. Engaging experiments include making their own mint candies and sampling classroom-made chewing gum. Grades 1-6.
“SPROUTING OUT” OUTREACH PROGRAMS | PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Our “Sprouting Out!” programs introduce preschoolers to the wonders of the natural world. It is our hope that their time with us will foster a sense of wonder and stewardship for the world around them. Each forty-five minute class includes a show-and-tell, a movement activity, and a hands-on craft project.

Program fee is $75 for one, or $65 each when two or more of the same program are conducted the same day. Limited to 20 students per class.

**Fun with Flowers**
See your students’ imaginations “bloom” as they learn about the parts of flowers, create a kool flower and plant a take home flower pot.

**Terrific Trees**
Explore the wonder of these mighty giants with Oakley the Acorn as we act out the life cycle of a seed and create a “tree’mendous necklace!

**Wiggly Worms and Diggity Dirt**
Learn all about these critters that wiggle their way through the dirt! Hold a real worm and make a worm tunnel maze.

**What’s a Fruit, What’s a Veggie?**
Your little sprouts will discover the basics of fruits and veggies from A-Z, or asparagus to zucchini! Create a veggie puppet and plant fruit or veggie seeds!

**Our Feathered Friends**
Soar to new heights with backyard birds as you match up birds and eggs, explore nests, and make a bird buddy!

**Beautiful Butterflies**
Students will discover the wonders of our most colorful and beautiful insects as they sip “nectar” from a flower and create a painted lady ring!
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Your students will enjoy these 90-minute interactive experiences that combine garden explorations with hands on experiments and activities. Available throughout the year.

Fee: $5 per student. Teachers Free. Additional adults $5. Programs do not include admission to My Big Backyard.

Basic Botany
• Investigate our diverse garden flora and fauna to get an in-depth look at the field of botany.
• Discover flower anatomy, make observations, and hypotheses on pollination
• Visualize the process of photosynthesis and unlock the pigments of plants
• Learn plant reproduction and propagation methods
• Understand monocots and dicots with a dissection and scavenger hunt

Citizens By Nature
• A thought-provoking STEAM-based class on ethics and nature designed to instill civic pride and inspire students to take action
• Discover diversity in the community and the natural world
• Grow environmental awareness through art
• Explore the mid-south's native plants
• Assess various sites while designing various conservation initiatives

Water: The Wonders of the Wet World!
• Explore My Big Backyard
• Walk through the water cycle
• Investigate pond ecology while dip netting
• Understand the effects of water quality on aquatic life through a macro invertebrate limbo game
• Create a pond souvenir
MY BIG BACKYARD CLASSES

To visit MBBY, groups must register for one of the following five classes.

- Classes can accommodate one classroom-sized group (maximum 30 per class).
- Classes include 45 minutes of instruction and 45 minutes of free play in the Children’s Garden.
- Program Fee: $5 per student. One adult free with every 3 students.

Teachers Free. Additional Chaperones $5. This 1:3 ratio is required, as students must be closely supervised during the Free Play portion of class.

Plants: Green Power!
Nature comes alive when students uncover the power of plants as producers and food. Activities include a scavenger hunt, photosynthesis souvenir, and a “food web” game. Grades 2-6.

Water: The Wonders of the Wet World!
Dive into a wonderful watery world with activities to “wet” students’ curiosity. Walk through the water cycle, investigate pond ecology, and play a macro invertebrate limbo game. Grades 2-8.

Pollinators: What’s the BUZZ?
See what the “buzz” is all about as we visit flowers, just like the pollinators! Dress-up like a flower and play a match-up game. Use special science tools to observe and record pollinator activity. Grades 1-6, adaptable for multi-age groups.

Vegetable Gardens: Healthy Gardens, Healthy You!
Dig into a feast of knowledge about nutrition that comes from the garden. Learn which parts of plants end up on your dinner plate, what rainbows have to do with a healthy body, and play a part in helping our garden grow! Grades 1-6, adaptable for pre-K and K.

A Sense of Adventure! Pre-K and Kindergarten
Students will take a sensory hike through My Big Backyard, taking the time to stop and smell the thyme! Five activities will highlight each of the senses, followed by nature art drawing. Open to Pre-K, K, and special needs groups.