2016-2017 STUDENT PROGRAMS GUIDE

GROWING

For 25 YEARS

YOUNG MINDS

MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN
TEACHER TRAINING

Program Preview Night
Wednesday, August 31st 4:00-6:00
A field trip just for you! Enjoy refreshments and complimentary cocktail as you explore activity stations that will highlight a variety of our educational programs. Register for fabulous door prizes including a free outreach program! Free with your school I.D. Registration required by Aug. 29. To register email gina.harris@memphisbotanicgarden.com.

Project WET, K-8 educators
Tuesday, November 22 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. Registration required by Monday, Nov. 14.

Outdoor Classrooms: where learning comes naturally!
Friday, March 3rd 9:00-12:00
At this workshop teachers will learn how to add easy outdoor elements to your campus. Discover easy and exciting ways to incorporate the outdoors into your daily lessons. Come away with a multitude of ideas about getting kids excited about being outside and taking ownership of a natural space. $10 per teacher. Registration required by Wed., February 22. To register email gina.harris@memphisbotanicgarden.com

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
GROW YOUR STUDENT’S MINDS AT THE GARDEN!

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 busses. 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 teaches, 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 busses and wait while the lead teacher checks in at the admissions desk.
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Memphis Botanic Garden offers your students a chance to learn in a fun festival setting. Events include discovery and take home activity stations. Activities take place in the Garden and groups participate at their own pace.

We can accommodate a limited amount of students each day, so make your reservations early! Teachers free. Additional chaperones $5.

Nature’s Candy Store
Take your students on a ‘SWEET’ field trip! Did you know that every piece of candy comes from plants? From tree sap to tree bark, and even seaweed, we’ll explore the plant origins of some of their favorite treats! This event is part of the worldwide celebration of the 100th Birthday of Roald Dahl.

September 14-16, 10:00-12:00. Grades 2-6.

Rainforest Adventure
Bring your students for an adventure under the “canopy”—the rainforest canopy that is! Explore our unique collection of tropical plants as you travel on a safari through our conservatory. Find out what rainforest plants make products we use everyday and learn amazing adaptations of rainforest animals.

September 21-23, 10:00-12:00. Grades 3-6. $6 per student.

Incredible Insects: Sponsored by Wright Medical
Your students will discover that these crawlies are not so creepy after all! Buzz, and flitter your way through the educational crafts and fun activities designed to meet science standards. Students will fly, wiggle and dance to an insect anatomy song, hop into the Insect Olympics and fly into the lifecycle with a matching game. Other stations include forest floor exploration. Take-home crafts include magnifier and beetle magnets.

October 4-7, 10:00-12:00. Grades K-4. $6 per student.

Harvest Festival
Treat your class to some old-fashioned fun in the Garden. Enjoy harvest crafts & activities, including pumpkin painting, cider making, and bat buddies. Discovery stations teach fun facts about fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Students will also enjoy some harvest fun while jumping into a candy-filled haystack and picnicking with some old time pickin’ and grinnin’!

October 19-November 2. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Grades K-4. $6 per student. Rain dates: November 3 and 4.

Fall Colors: Trees of Tennessee
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 seed 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 November

Learn how children all over the world celebrate the holiday season. Experience Posada, Hanukkah, and Diwali by making piñatas, diya, and dreidels.

90-minute seasonal program
Grades K-4. $6 per student.

Spring Festival of Flowers

School groups visiting during this festival can enjoy hundreds of spring-flowering plants and trees. Stations throughout the Garden will feature discovery activities and take-home crafts. Your students will become part of the learning in The Amazing Flower Story, Butterfly Life Cycle, and Pollination Puppet Show, with colorful costumes and props. Other stations include a flower planting, and a walk through our Wildflower Woodland.

March 21-24 & March 27-31, 10:00-12:00.
Grades 4-8. Rain Dates April 3 & 4
Grades K-2. $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-made dyes, and “plant” a basket.

April 3-13. Grades K-4. $6 per student.

World of Plants: An International Children’s Festival sponsored by Macy’s

Integrate social studies, history, and plant science with a field trip around the world! Your students will “travel” to Africa, Asia, India, Europe, and the Americas, where they will take part in activities that demonstrate how different cultures use plants in their daily lives. Students visit five global tents and participate in 15 different hands-on activities, including making tribal masks using African plants, decorating Vietnamese rice hats, Indian Rangoli, and tasting Italian pasta sauce. After your journey around the world, enjoy live entertainment while picnicking. Ekpe’s International Music brings the world’s sounds to you using African drum music and exotic folk instruments. During this interactive performance, foreign language, and geography are accentuated. Teachers will have access to an online guide that introduces students to the celebrated countries and activities.

April 25-28 and May 1-5
9:00am-12:30 pm. Grades 2-6. $6 per student. Rain dates May 8 & 9.
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!

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

Prehistoric Pals:
Visit our Prehistoric Plant Trail to see plants that have grown since the days of the dinosaurs, and create a “dinomite” puppet and planting.

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.

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!

Fall Colors:
See a rainbow of colors in our Arboretum, where you’ll collect leaves for a beautiful “stained glass” hanging and funnyleaf friend.

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!

Prehistoric Plants:
Explore the Garden’s Prehistoric Plant Trail with this guided tour back in time. From magnolias and moss to conifers and ferns, students get a close-up look at some of the unique plants that once lived alongside the dinosaurs. Activities include examining fossils and petrified wood, and a take-home a prehistoric planting.

Eco-Trek:
Our local trail guides will outfit your explorers with an observation journal and take them on an Eco-Trek! On your adventure, students will become actively involved in understanding the delicate balance of different local ecosystems. Examine why wetlands are wonderful, journey into the meadow web of life, and make tracks in the lively meadows.

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.

Prehistoric Plants:
Explore the Garden’s Prehistoric Plant Trail with this guided tour back in time. From magnolias and moss to conifers and ferns, students get a close-up look at some of the unique plants that once lived alongside the dinosaurs. Activities include examining fossils and petrified wood, and a take-home a prehistoric planting.

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.
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

Notable Tree Tour
- Journey through our Level IV Certified Arboretum to discover what makes these trees so “notable”.
- Learn interesting history and unique tree facts
- Be guided through techniques they can use to identify our featured trees
- Use a dichotomous key

Water: The Wonders of the Wet World!
- Dive into a watery world with fun activities to “wet” students’ curiosity.
- Walk through the water cycle
- Investigate pond ecology while dip netting
- Understand the effects of water quality on aquatic life through a macroinvertebrate limbo game
- Create a pond souvenir

Where learning comes naturally.
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 consumers while playing a food web game. Students will go on a photosynthesis scavenger hunt and take home a solar bracelet.
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 macroinvertebrate 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
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.

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.

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.

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.

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 PLASTIC GROCERY BAG.) Grades 1-6.

Healthy Foods, 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! Each student plants their own seed to sprout! Grades 1-4.
“SPROUTING OUT” Outreach Programs for 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.

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 you 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.

Buzz, Buzz, Bees
Learn about these busy insects that help our gardens grow. Taste honey, do a bee dance and make a bee puppet to learn about the parts of a bee.

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!