SCHOOL TOUR OFFERINGS

Selby Gardens' Guided School Tours consist of a docent-led General Gardens tour along with one of the following hands-on field studies options. We offer these specialized programs to aid teachers' curricular goals and are happy to tailor any of the programs in support of unique student needs and interests. Please note: Scheduling of tour guides is dependent on volunteer docent availability.

(All guided tours are $7 per student, unless otherwise indicated. Self-guided tours are $5 per student.)

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS
Perfectly Positioned: Flower Dissection	Explore the inner workings of a flower with our Plant Parts Flower Dissection. In this engaging hands-on lab, students will carefully disassemble provided flowers piece by piece, stopping to identify the function of each flower component. Aided by a trip to the Children's Rainforest Garden's "Pollination Station," along with high-quality visuals, students will gain a greater understanding of the process and importance of pollination.	3-5
Bromeliad Tank Surprise	Using turkey basters, sieves, measuring cups and hand lenses, students will work in pairs extracting water and microbes from bromeliad tanks. As students transfer the water into a transparent collection cup or sieve, they reveal a world of biodiversity living within the bromeliad. Using both Magiscopes and a hand lenses to magnify the microbes 20x-40x, young scientists will discover a number of micro-organisms that make their home within the tanks of bromeliads. Saving a bromeliad today, may save a frog tomorrow!	K-12
Soaring Butterflies & Crawling Caterpillars	Most young children have heard Eric Carle's story of the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* and can recount, through the story, the metamorphosis of the butterfly. After reviewing the story, children are led in the "dance of the butterfly" on the grassy mansion lawn adjacent to the butterfly garden. Using a kaleidoscope lens to simulate butterflies' vision, students investigate caterpillar and butterfly host plants. Learning that caterpillars eat and butterflies drink from certain plants demonstrates the balance required both when designing a butterfly garden and supporting butterfly life cycles.	preK-3

Look at those Leaves!	In this interactive hands-on study, students will observe both the intricacy and diversity of leaves found amidst Selby's unique plant community. Using specialized flat crayons to create leaf rubbings, students will discover the unique vein structure and texture of different plants. Next, high-powered hand lenses will be used to magnify the exterior features of the leaves. Inquiry-driven discussions throughout the lab include: the function of leaf veins, simple vs. compound leaf structure, vascular vs. non-vascular plants, the purpose of varying leaf shapes, i.e. the bo tree's drip tip. (*Optional Extension for 6th-12th grade students: "Name that Florida Native!" An interactive activity allowing students to classifying plant characteristics using field guides and a simple dichotomous key, students can identify many indigenous plants the species level as part of an authentic botanical inventory experience.)*	preK-12
Break it Down: Selby Soil Analysis	By scooping distinct types of soil into two buckets, students will examine what comprises soil as well as the types of plants that grow in either type. Guides will demonstrate coastal soil vs. one with more humus/other organic matter. Students sort and compare various soil samples and record their findings. Sample soil components include both organic matter (leaf and plant debris, animal waste, insect remains, and humus) and inorganic materials (rock, sand, and silt). *(Optional Extension for 6th-12th grade students: "What Makes Soil 'Good'?" A mathematically-driven lab where student computation and graphing of data on a ternary diagram allows students to visualize how soil is determined to be "good" for supporting plant growth.)*	3-12
Fantastic Florida: Florida's Native Plants	Florida is home to unique and intricate ecosystems, including the mangrove forests and estuaries which line much of our coastlines. In this field study, students will both identify several of the plants and animals living along our coast and investigate the contents and benefits of estuaries and adjoining mangrove forests. With a focus on Florida native plants such as mangroves, sea grapes, sea grasses and other coastal plants, students will learn how these plants connect land and sea. A mangrove leaf sorting activity will help students identify the three types of mangroves native to Florida. Additionally, from November – February, student groups can benefit from Clyde Butcher's "Preserving Eden" Florida Photography exhibit which will be on display in Selby's Museum of Botany & the Arts. From March to May, students can experience the annual juried photo contest featuring local photography. (*Optional Extension for 6th-12th grade students: "Name that Florida Native!" An interactive activity allowing students to classifying plant characteristics using field guides and a simple dichotomous key, students can identify many indigenous plants the species level.)* You can also complement your Florida Natives tour with the following add-on performance option. This 45 minute program, held in the Ann Goldstein Rainforest Garden Amphitheater, will engage students' senses, and inspire DIY ways to protect Florida's valuable ecosystems. (K-12) *(<u>additional $200 fee will apply</u>)*: • **Florida's Birds:** Provide your students with an up-close Floridian owls and local seabirds encounter through the expertise of Save Our Seabirds, a non-profit local wildlife conservation and education organization. (K-**12)**	K-12

Flora & Fauna of the Rainforest Masks	Don't miss bringing your class to see our gallery of hand-carved and painted Rainforest masks on display every Spring in the Museum of Botany & the Arts. These original works depict the vibrant and authentic Borucan culture of the central Costa Rican rainforest and provide a breathtaking glimpse into the flora and fauna of the rainforest. After viewing and sketching uniquely inspiring elements of these masks, students will have the opportunity to apply their experience viewing the exhibit by and creating their own rainforest masks, drawing from either the tropical rainforest or from our natural environment here in Southwest Florida.	K-12
Botany by the Bay	Designed specifically to align with seventh grade Life Science Standards, Botany by the Bay is a hands-on outdoor lab which investigates the following topics: symbiosis and the inter-relations of organisms, impact and identification of microbial populations, and survival adaptations. *(Optional Extension for 6th-12th grade students: "What Makes Soil 'Good'?" A mathematically-driven lab where student computation and graphing of data on a ternary diagram allows students to visualize how soil is determined to be "good" for supporting plant growth.)*	6-12
Numbers in Nature	Fibonacci numbers and the expression of math in nature take center stage in this unique field study which encourages students to investigate patterns within petals and leaves through completion of a garden-inspired Fibonacci scavenger hunt.	6-12
Rainforest Focus	Studying the rainforest? Make the Ann Goldstein Children's Rainforest Garden the focal point of your visit to Selby Gardens. This field study option introduces students to the elements of an Asian rainforest as you tour the towering bamboo grove, koi pond, and fern garden. Next, explore the elevated Children's Rainforest Garden which provides a unique perspective from within Selby's magnificent banyan trees…a memorable way to experience the power and magic of the rainforest without having to travel there. Visit: http://www.selby.org/gardens/ann-goldstein-childrens-rainforest-garden to learn more. Complement your Rainforest-focused tour with one of the following add-on performances options. These 45 minute programs, held in the Ann Goldstein Rainforest Garden Amphitheater, will engage students' senses, and inspire DIY ways to protect our planets' valuable ecosystems. (K-12) *(additional $200 fee will apply)*: • **Rainforest Birds:** Provide your students with an up-close rainforest birds encounter (EX: macaws and cockatoos) through the expertise of Save Our Seabirds, a non-profit local wildlife conservation and education organization. (K-12) • **Project Rainforest:** Visit a rainforest through conservationist Bruce Segal's engaging personal accounts and unique presentation combining audience simulations and prop demonstrations. (K-12)	K-12
Embracing our Bio-Differences	*(Seasonal Availability March 29 – May 31)* This special tour is Selby's unique self-guided school group offering designed to complement your students' visit to the Embracing Our Differences Exhibit held at Bay Front Park each spring. Take advantage of Selby's proximity with a short stroll along the shore and extend your field trip to include an exploration of the importance of their uniqueness in the greater realm of ecological biodiversity as your students investigate of Selby's world-class collection of tropical plants.	K-8