



2145 Centre Avenue | Fort Collins, CO 80526
 970.416.2486 | fcgov.com/gardens

SCHOOL TOUR INFORMATION

To schedule a tour, please see our website.

The Gardens on Spring Creek is a beautiful setting to dig into science education. We offer hands-on school programs for all grades that are unique, interactive and standards based. Each program brings a different lens to the beautiful landscapes and animals at The Gardens. Each tour has four stations and planting activities are included with each tour.

Groups are welcome to stay and play or have lunch in the Children’s Garden after their tour. Groups are not permitted to enter the Butterfly House after their tour.

Fees: \$7 per student for most tours. Scholarships are available for schools who are 40 percent or greater Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility (as cited by Colorado or Wyoming State Board of Education for the previous school year). All payment is done online.

Self-Guided Tours: Groups of 10 - 20 are eligible for group pricing tickets. These tickets must be purchased a week in advance to receive \$2 off admission prices. Elementary groups must schedule an organized program.

Adults: To provide the best experience for your students and for the safety of all visitors, we require between a 1:5 and 1:10 ratio of adults to students. If you meet this ratio, adults will receive free admission. If you have too many or too few adults, **ALL** adults except teachers will pay the adult group rate of \$2 off admission prices.

Scheduling: The Gardens' staff requires at least two weeks advance notice to book a field trip.

| SCHOOL TOUR AVAILABILITY | | |
|---|---|---|
| APRIL 1 – JUNE 1 AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 31 | | NOVEMBER 1 – MARCH 30 |
| <p>Garden Tours without Butterfly House Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday - Friday • 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. start time • Limited to 75 students plus chaperones <p>Tours Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory Garden Tour • Plant-astic Scientists • Pollinators Among Us • Native Plants • Soil to Snack • Bee-Empathetic (HS Friday only) • Self-Guided HS Botany Scavenger hunt • Career Tours | <p>Garden and Butterfly Tours with Butterfly House Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. start time <p>Tours Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory Garden Tour • Wacky and Wonderful Plants • Pollinators Among Us • Bountiful Butterflies • Taking Flight • Self-Guided HS Botany Scavenger hunt • Career Tours | <p>Winter Butterfly Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday - Thursday • 9:00 a.m. or 9:30 a.m. start time • Limited to 30 students plus chaperones • Inside tour unless weather is warm <p>Tours Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bountiful Butterflies • Taking Flight |





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BRING THE GARDENS TO YOUR CLASSROOM

Not able to visit The Gardens in person? No problem. We've got options!

Check-out Kits: The Gardens on Spring Creek offers check-out kits for classes that may be kept for up to two weeks. All materials are cleaned between groups. The kits we offer include:

- **Tree Trunks:** Filled to the brim with activities and materials for all ages, these arbor-themed kits are a collaborative project made possible by Society of American Foresters, the Gardens on Spring Creek, Front Range Community College, Colorado State Forest Service and the U.S. Forest Service. This kit is available for elementary school students or middle school to adult learners. **Cost:** \$50 refundable deposit
- **Pollinators Among Us Kit:** Explore the wonderful world of bees and their important job as pollinators. Packed full of engaging, fun and hands-on activities, this bee-themed kit brings together STEM and social-emotional learning to facilitate standards-based education for elementary students. **Cost:** \$50 refundable deposit.
- **Poudre School District Environmental Learning Kits:** Our Pollinators Among Us tour can be translated to your classroom with ease. All the lessons and materials are available through the Poudre School District kits.

Virtual Tours: Our most popular tours are available in a virtual format. Each tour has an interactive, pre-recorded video with supplemental lessons. The base tours are free, and individual student activity kits can be added for an additional \$2 per student for an interactive synchronous lesson with your classroom. We have the following tours available:

- Butterfly Tour (K-2)
- Plant-tastic Scientists tours (K-5)
- Pollinator tour (2-5) – with check-out education truck at no extra cost
- Sensory Tour (pre-K)
- Horticulture Careers (Middle school and high school)

To request virtual tour materials, please complete this [Form](#).

Looking for something else? Contact our team. We are happy to work with you to create experiences that help grow students' learning!

SCHOOL TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

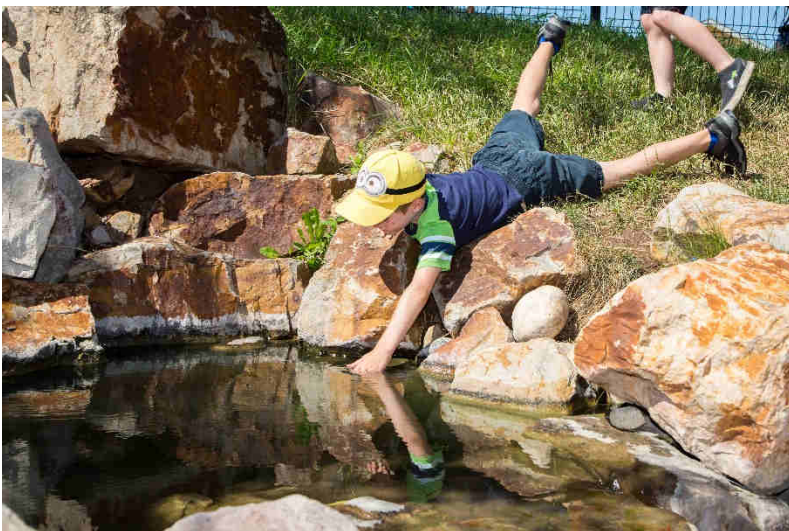
Sensory Garden Tour:

- 90 minutes
- Recommended for preschool and unique learning groups

Put on your bee and butterfly wings and travel around The Gardens exploring the sights, sounds, textures, smells and colors of the garden. Geared for the younger learner, this program is hands on, fast paced and fun with a focus on observation and exploration. Students will also hear a story, discuss plant needs and plant their very own seed to take home.

Optional: Add the Butterfly House

Customization: This tour provides a great deal of customization of content and focus depending on what you are learning in the classroom or the unique needs of your group.



COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Preschool

Physical Science:

1:1 Recognize that physical properties of objects and / or materials help us understand the world.

Life Science:

2:1 Recognize that living things have unique characteristics and basic needs that can be observed and studied.

Earth and Space Science:

3:2 The acquisition of concepts and facts related to the natural and physical world and the understanding of naturally occurring relationships.

Number and Quantity:

P.CC.A. Counting and Cardinality: Know number names and the count sequence.

P.CC.B. Counting and Cardinality:

Recognize the number of objects in a small set.

Movement Competence and Understanding:

1:1 Travel in a variety of directions using basic locomotor skills and demonstrate understanding of personal and general space.

Plant-astic Scientist Tour:

- Two Hours
- Recommended for kindergarten through third grade

From the smallest seed to the tallest flower, plants feed us, clothe us, heal us and inspire us. How does something so small become so important? Come explore the awe-inspire world of plants as Plant-astic scientists.

Stations:

- **What Is a Seed?** – Students explore the characteristics, parts, functions and adaptations of edible seeds through sorting and dissection activities.
- **How Plants Grow** – Students model the life cycle of a plant and discover what they need to grow as they plant a seed to take home
- **How Seeds Move** – Students examine and test the inspiring ways seeds move and are dispersed in the garden.
- **Feed me! Plant Parts We Eat** – Younger students explore the different parts of plants we eat and play a fun plant parts harvest relay. Older students (second and third grade) explore the process and importance of photosynthesis through a fun active relay.



COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Kindergarten

Life Science:

2:1 To live and grow, animals obtain food they need from plants or other animals, and plants need water and light.

Number and Quantity:

K.CC.B. Counting and Cardinality: Count to determine the number of objects.

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability:

K.MD.B. Measurement and Data: Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

Movement Competence and Understanding:

1:1 Demonstrate body and spatial awareness through movement.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Demonstrate respect for self, others, and equipment.
3:2 Demonstrate the ability to follow directions.

First Grade

Life Science:

2:1 All organisms have external parts that they use to perform daily functions.

2:2 Young organisms are very much, but not exactly, like their parents and also resemble other organisms of the same kind.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Work independently and with others to complete work.
3:2 Follow the rules of an activity.

Second Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Plants depend on water and light to grow and on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around.

Civics:

4:1 Advocate for ideas to improve communities.

Third Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.

2:3 Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

2:5 Sometimes differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in survival and reproduction.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Demonstrate positive social behaviors during physical activity.

Wacky and Wonderful World of Plant Tour:

- Two hours
- Recommended for third through fifth grade

Come explore the wacky and wonderful world of plants with us. There are more than 290,000 different species of plants! Plants unique, beautiful, tasty and necessary for life on Earth! Students investigate the needs of plants, create their own terrarium to take home, explore the adaptations that allow plants to live in harsh environments, play the Photosynthesis game and get to know our native Colorado plants.



Stations:

- **Earth's Life Support** – Students explore the chemical process and importance of photosynthesis through a fun active relay.
- **Plants in a Bubble** – Students challenge their assumptions and explore what it really takes for plants to grow by creating their own wearable terrarium.
- **Hard Core Plants** – Students will explore our Undaunted garden to investigate the internal and external adaptations that allow plants to live in harsh Colorado environments.
- **Colorado Tropics** – Students will walk through the sub-tropical gardens of our Butterfly House and compare these humid-loving plants to our native neighbors.

COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Third Grade

Life Science:

2:3 Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

2:4 Some living organisms resemble organisms that once lived on Earth.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Demonstrate positive social behaviors during physical activity.

Geography:

2:2. The concept of region is developed through an examination of similarities and differences in places and communities.

Fourth Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have both internal and external structures that serve various functions.

Prevention and Risk

Management:

4:1 Demonstrate knowledge of safe practices in a physical activity setting.

Fifth Grade

Physical Science:

1:4 The energy released from food was once energy from the sun.

Life Science:

2:1 Plants acquire their material from growth chiefly from air and water.

2:2 Matter cycles between air and soil and among plants, animals and microbes as these organisms live and die.

Pollinators Among Us Tour:

- **Two hours**
- Recommended for second through fifth grade

Join us at The Gardens to explore the curious and important world of pollinators! During this program, students put on their community scientist hats and explore the role of pollinators in food production, the process of pollination, our local pollinators and how we can help support pollinators at our homes. Students will plant a pollinator's favorite plant to take home.



Stations:

- **What's the Big Deal about Pollinators?** – Students investigate the interdependence between pollinators and flowers through modeling and flower dissection.
- **Pollinator Community Science** – Students become community scientists and learn how to look for and identify local pollinators by their unique characteristics and adaptations.
- **Pollinators at Risk** – Students become pollinators in this active critical thinking game that challenges them to consider and discuss how humans and nature can positively and negatively affect pollinators.
- **Pollinator Stewards** – Students visit the butterfly house and learn how to be stewards of their environment by spreading seeds for pollinators. (Students will receive seeds to take home)

COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Second Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Plants depend on water and light to grow and on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around.

2:2 A range of different organisms lives in different places.

Math:

2.OA.B. Operations and Algebraic Thinking: Add and subtract within 20.

Geography:

2:2 People in communities manage, modify and depend on their environment.

Civics:

4:1 Advocate for ideas to improve communities.

Reading for All Purposes:

2:2 Apply specific skills to comprehend and fluently read informational texts.

Third Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.

2:3 Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

2:5 Sometimes differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in survival and reproduction.

Reading for All Purposes:

2:2 Apply strategies to fluently read and comprehend various informational texts.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Demonstrate positive social behaviors during physical activity.

Fourth Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have both internal and external structures that serve various functions.

Civics:

4:1 Identify, investigate, and analyze multiple perspectives on civic issues.

Fifth Grade

Life Science:

2:2 Matter cycles between air and soil and among plants, animals and microbes as these organisms live and die.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:2 Work cooperatively and productively in a group.

Oral Expression and Listening:

1: 2. Present to express an opinion, persuade or explain / provide information.

Native Plants Tour:

- Two hours
- Recommended for second through fourth grade

Hot summers, cold winters, droughts and floods make Colorado plants particularly resilient due to our rugged environment. Come on a hike through the gardens and meet the native plants in our Foothills Garden, Prairie Garden, alpine Rock Garden and Undaunted Garden landscapes.

Stations:

- **Native Plant Professors** – Students are plant professors and teach their peers about some native plants and their cultural uses in our Foothills Garden and take native seeds home to plant (Spring) or bringing seeds home (Fall/winter)
- **Living in Colorado** – Participants explore how nature shapes our native ecosystems and use a dichotomous key to identify the diverse and beautiful native plants.
- **Undaunted Adaptations** – Living in Colorado means you must have some wicked adaptations to survive in our climate. Explore amazing adaptations in our Undaunted Garden and alpine Rock Garden.

COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Second Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Plants depend on water and light to grow and on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around.

2:2 A range of different organisms lives in different places.

Geography:

2:2 People in communities manage, modify and depend on their environment.

Oral Expression and Listening:

1:1 Engage in dialogue and learn new information through active listening.

1:2 Deliver presentations while maintaining focus on topic and be prepared to discuss.

Reading for All Purposes:

2:2 Apply specific skills to comprehend and fluently read informational texts.

Third Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.

2:3 Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

2:5 Sometimes differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in survival and reproduction.

Geography:

2:2 The concept of region is developed through an examination of similarities and differences in places and communities.

Oral Expression and Listening

1:2 Communicate using appropriate language in informal and formal situations.

Reading for All Purposes

2: 2. Apply strategies to fluently read and comprehend various informational texts

Fourth Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have both internal and external structures that serve various functions. There is interaction and interdependence between and among living and nonliving components of systems.

History:

1:1 Analyze primary and secondary sources from multiple points of view to develop an understanding of the history of Colorado.

Oral Expression and Listening:

1:1 Pose thoughtful questions after actively listening to others.

1:2 Create a plan to effectively present information both informally and formally.

Reading for All Purposes:

2:2 Apply strategies to comprehend and interpret informational texts.

2:3 Apply knowledge of spelling patterns (orthography) and word meanings (morphology) to decode multisyllable words and determine the meaning of unknown words.

Bountiful Butterflies Tour:

- Two hours
- Recommended for kindergarten through second grade

Butterflies can teach us tremendous lessons. Explore the Gardens on Spring Creek and our Butterfly House to learn all about butterflies, how they grow, what they eat and plant a special butterfly plant to grow at home.



Stations:

- **From Egg to Butterfly** – Students embody the process of metamorphosis through this imaginative station.
- **Butterflies Come in All Shapes and Sizes** – Students explore the diversity of butterflies learn how to identify native butterflies in our Butterfly House.
- **What is the Big Deal about Pollinators?** – Students investigate the interdependence between pollinators and flowers through modeling and flower dissection.
- **Butterfly Stewards** – Students will get to make a difference for local butterflies by planting a butterfly plant to take home (Spring) or bringing seeds home (Fall/winter)

COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Kindergarten

Life Science:

2:1 To live and grow, animals obtain food they need from plants or other animals, and plants need water and light.

Earth and Space Science:

3:2 Plants and animals meet their needs in their habitats and impact one another.

Number and Quantity:

K.CC.B. Counting and Cardinality: Count to determine the number of objects.

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability:

K.MD.B. Measurement and Data: Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category.

Movement Competence and Understanding:

1:1 Demonstrate body and spatial awareness through movement.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Demonstrate respect for self, others and equipment.

3:2 Demonstrate the ability to follow directions.

First Grade

Life Science:

2:1 All organisms have external parts that they use to perform daily functions.

2:2 Young organisms are very much, but not exactly, like their parents and also resemble other organisms of the same kind.

Social and Emotional Wellness:

3:1 Work independently and with others to complete work.

3:2 Follow the rules of an activity.

Second Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Plants depend on water and light to grow and on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around.

2:2 A range of different organisms lives in different places.

Civics

4:1 Advocate for ideas to improve communities.

Taking Flight Tour:

- Two hours
- Recommended for third through fifth grade

Become entomologists for the day and enter the world of lepidoptery, the study of butterflies and moths. During this program, students investigate the inspiring and amazing world of butterflies through hands-on science that applies the real work and data scientists are tackling in the field.

Stations:

- **Metamorphosis** – Students explore the crazy process of metamorphosis and visit our chrysalis chamber in the Butterfly House to see the process firsthand.
- **Monarch Migration** – Students map the paths of monarch migration through diverse cultures and practice tagging monarchs like scientists.
- **Designed for Success** – Students experience up close the internal and external adaptations that make butterflies extremely successful pollinators.
- **Butterfly Stewards** – Students review the importance of butterflies for pollination and make a difference for local butterflies by planting a butterfly plant to take home (Spring) or bringing seeds home (Fall/winter)



COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

Third Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.

2:3 Different organisms vary in how they look and function because they have different inherited information; the environment also affects the traits that an organism develops.

2:5 Sometimes differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in survival and reproduction.

Algebra and Functions

3.OA.A. Operations & Algebraic Thinking: Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

3.MD.A. Measurement and Data: Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time.

Fourth Grade

Life Science:

2:1 Organisms have both internal and external structures that serve various functions.

Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

4.MD.A. Measurement and Data: Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.

Geography:

2: 2. Connections are developed within and across human and physical systems.

Soil To Snack:

- Three hours
- Recommended for third through fifth grade

Healthy eating is easier when you know where your food comes from. Come visit the Garden and harvest, prepare, eat and reflect upon how food affects us. During this tour students will prepare and eat their own snack, make garden tea, investigate food labels, learn how to grow their own vegetables and practice mindfulness on a reflective hike through the prairie and foothills.

Extension Option: skip the bus and coordinate a bike ride to the Gardens with Safe Routes email saferoutes@fcgov.com

Stations:

1. **Eating the Rainbow:** Spring roll preparation and eating (Vegan -Major top 10 allergen free – can accommodate others)
2. **The Power of Choice:** Mindfulness hike activity that encourages students to use the power of nature to reflect on the role food and exercise plays in their life and engage in a fun game of movement charades.
3. **Growing our food:** Students work in teams to strategically map out and plan their own mini vegetable garden followed by an opportunity to plant their own vegetable seed to take home.



COLORADO STATE STANDARDS

4th Grade

Number and Quantity

4.NBT.B. Number & Operations in Base Ten: Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

Physical and Personal Wellness

2:1 Demonstrate the ability to set a goal in order to enhance personal nutrition.
2:2 Describe the connection between food intake and physical health.

Writing and Composition

3: 1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts supporting a point of view with reasons and information. (CCSS: W.4.1)

5th Grade

Physical Science:

1:4 The energy released from food was once energy from the sun.

Number and Quantity

5.NBT.B. Number & Operations in Base Ten: Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.

Physical and Personal Wellness

2:1 Demonstrate the ability to make good decisions about healthy eating behaviors.

Social and Emotional Wellness

3:2 Work cooperatively and productively in a group.

Writing and Composition

3: 1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information, for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Middle School

Life Science:

2:3 Sustaining life requires substantial energy and matter inputs.

Physical and Personal Wellness

6:2:1 Evaluate the validity and reliability of information, products, and services to enhance healthy eating behaviors.
6:2:4 Analyze how positive health behaviors can benefit people throughout their lifespan.
7:2:1 Analyze factors that influence healthy eating behaviors.

Social and Emotional Wellness

7:3:2 Develop healthy self-management skills to prevent and manage stress.
8:3:2 Analyze internal and external factors that influence mental and emotional health.

Movement Competence and Understanding

1:3 Participate in activities that require problem-solving, cooperation, and teambuilding.

Social and Emotional Wellness

3:2 Demonstrate responsible behavior in group settings.

Middle School and High School Programming:

We work with all disciplines from art, to community engagement, to science, to garden careers, and more.

For additional opportunities, find us on PSD Xello! We offer job shadows, summer teen programs, guest speakers, and service-learning opportunities.



Career Programs:

- In our Career programming Students will receive a presentation and tour of the Gardens with a focus on careers that operate within a botanic garden setting.

Choose your special Focus for the second part:

- **Service Learning** Students will participate in a service-learning opportunity in the Gardens. Service learning can include: creating seed packets, raking, weeding, pruning, composting, and other opportunities based on the Gardens' needs.
- **Community Science** Students will participate in community science tasks that focus on career skills in the Gardens. Community Science can include: using BudBurst to record scientific data on plants and animals, counting bee species, or planting a seed to take home.
- **Extended Careers** Students will dive deeper into botanic garden careers with a career activity facilitated by a Gardens education staff member. Students will be able to ask questions and learn about the staff member's personal career journey.
- **Optional Butterfly House Visit (add-on)** – Students will have the opportunity to have a 15 minute visit the Butterfly House at the Gardens. Group size is limited to 15 people inside the Butterfly House at one time, so larger groups may be split and will visit at separate times in smaller groups during their tour time.

Bees Please! STEM Kit – A multi-disciplinary exploration of the science behind bees and pollination. This Field Science program is developed in partnership with Colorado State University's College of Natural Sciences and Entomology Department. Students will build a flower model to gain a better understanding of pollination. Students will study their bees (each kit has a different species) and then exchange data and information with others in the class to explore bee biodiversity and behavior. Data in this kit comes from an on-going citizen science project that started as a CSU research project.

- Reserve the kit for your classroom or explore onsite at the gardens with hands on data collection in the garden.

Self-Guided Botany 101 Field Trip – This self-guided botany scavenger hunt leads students all over the gardens and through the butterfly house testing their knowledge of plant structures, types and other basic botany knowledge.