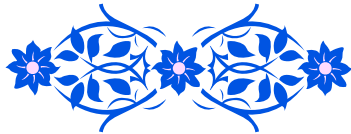


Springfield Park District's

Washington Park Botanical Garden

### Special Interest Groups

Create your own customized program. Grade 7 through college level students, Girl or Boy Scout troops, and other groups with special interests (art, botany, biology, ecology, photography, etc.) are invited to contact the Program Coordinator at 753-6228 in order to design a tailor made program to fit the goals and objectives of their curricula.



### Registration Information

School programs are held Monday - Friday. All program reservations must be made two weeks prior to your visit. To register your class for a program call the Garden at (217) 753-6228 between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm.

Please be sure to have the following information ready when you call:

Program requested, grade, & class size  
Preferred date & time with alternatives  
Name of school and school district  
Name, address and phone number of contact person

Groups of all sizes are welcome. We ask adult supervision/chaperones be present at all times and maintain order within your group. **Parent chaperones are welcome but younger siblings may not attend.** Visits to the Garden should be fun, but are not to be considered playtime. **Please be sure that your students where visible name tags.** This allows for a more personal experience during the Garden programs.

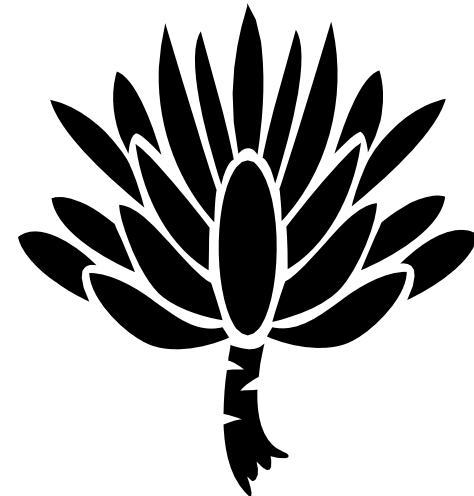
#### **Late Arrival:**

If your group will be late in arriving, please call ahead to notify the Garden staff, (217) 753-6228.

#### **Fees:**

All programs are **free** unless otherwise noted.

## School Programs



1740 W. Fayette Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217) 753-6228

## Spring Programs

### The Reason For A Flower

(Grades Pre-school - K)

A rhyming story about flowers, plants, seeds & plant products is presented to the children in a “story corner” atmosphere. Students will examine a large floral model, tour the grounds, and pot up their own plant.

### Flower Power

(Grades 1- 5)

Examine the parts of a flower and identify their functions to better understand the reason for flowers in nature. Students will tour the grounds and pot up their own plant to take home.

### Structures of Life

(Grades 3 - 4)

Seeds ensure the survival of most plant species. Students will review the basic life cycle of a plant, and observe monocot & dicot seeds and seedlings through video microscopy, and discuss the differences. Students will see various plants, their fruits, and correlating products. Students pot seeds to take back to classroom for observation.

### Making New Plants

(Grades 5 - 8)

Learn different propagation methods and gain an understanding of how horticulturists use plant’s natural asexual reproductive abilities on the job. Students will search for signs of asexual propagation and pot up a “cloned” plant to take home.

### Seed Scene

(Grades Preschool - 1)

Seeds are miracles of life. Students will review when seeds occur in plant cycles, discover the range of seed sizes and shapes, and explore the process of germination. Seed story in a “story corner” atmosphere presented. Students will pot up a seed to take home.

### Grocery Garden

(Grades 1 - 3)

Discover what part of the plant our grocery store foods come from. Meet the plants that give us chocolate, vanilla, coconut, bananas, and more. Follow the food chain from sun to child. Students pot up seed of an edible plant to take home.

### Rain Forest Festival (specific dates)

(Grades Pre-school - 6)

### Discovering Deserts

(Grades 3 - 5)

Do you know the difference between a cactus and a succulent? Discover the surprising diversity of these hardy plants that survive the harsh and arid climates of the desert. Plant a succulent to take home.

### Scavenger Hunt for Leaves

(Grades 1-2)

Students will be given drawings of different leaves and will be guided on a hike to find and match real leaves with the drawings. They will then attach the leaves to sheets of paper ready for pressing. This program is designed to emphasize observation and comparison of leaf types, and an appreciation of the beauty of trees. Dress for outdoor walking & have a folder to collect.



## Fall Programs

### Nature Trek

(Grades Pre-school - 3)

Students take an outdoor nature walk to enhance their sensory awareness & develop an appreciation of the environment. Autumn colors, seed forms, and plant/animal habitats are examined. Dress appropriately for the weather and for “nature collecting”. Bring paper bags for collecting. Items collected can be used for art crafts back at school.

### Watch Out For Falling Leaves

(Grades 3 - 5)

By observing different leaf characteristics students will learn to recognize and identify some common native Illinois trees. After a hike to collect leaves and enjoy the fall color, students will use the leaves in an art project. Dress appropriately for weather and bring bag for collecting, a notebook, and pencil.

### Native American Plants and Their Uses (Grades 3 - 6)

Imagine what it was like to use the forest, wetlands, and prairies as a grocery store. Students will learn Native American lore and uses of many native plants. Children will discover the importance of natural areas in a healthy ecosystem. Dress appropriately for the weather, outdoor hiking, and nature collection.

### Prairie Festival (specific dates)

(Grades Pre-school - 6)



### Trees Are Terrific!

(Grades 3 - 5)

Discover the importance of trees to humans, animals, and a healthy ecosystem. Students will learn the structure and function of tree parts through role-play. They will also learn the roles that trees play in natural cycle such as the oxygen/carbon dioxide cycle and the food web. This program combines nicely with the “Leaf Collection” and “Watch Out For Falling Leaves” programs.

### Leaf Collection

(Grades 4 - 8)

Complete an entire leaf collection in a single outing at the Washington Park Botanical Garden! Students will learn the same techniques botanists employ to identify leaves and collect up to 50 different deciduous tree leaves. This program combines easily with “Trees are Terrific” and can take anywhere from 1 to 2 hours depending on the number of leaves collected. Dress appropriately for the weather. Students need to bring bag for collecting, a notebook, and a pencil.

### Bulbs & Blossoms

(Grades K - 2)

Bright tulips and daffodils are popular spring flowers, and fall is the season to plant them. Dissect a bulb and learn why some plants form bulbs. Discover how a bulb grows through the year. Pot up a bulb to take home.

### It’s A Pine!

(Grades 3 - 5)

During an explanation of the adaptations that enable plants to remain evergreen, students will observe needle color, size, shape, cones, and other characteristics. Take a hike and learn to classify some conifer groups. Needle collection included (bring paper bag).