BOK ADVENTURE GUIDE 2021 – 2022
BUILDING ON MORE THAN 92 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE,
Bok Tower Gardens provides authentic and engaging educational experiences for learners of all ages. Our education program uses the rich resources of the Gardens to cultivate a sense of wonder and serve as a source of inspiration. Educational programs provide hands-on learning activities and leadership opportunities designed to challenge students to learn, grow and solve problems.

THE BOK TOWER GARDENS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VALUES:

- Authentic, engaging hands-on learning experiences
- Academic excellence delivered with integrity and respect
- Accessibility for all audiences
**BOK ADVENTURES**

Bok Tower Gardens offers students rich experiential learning opportunities. The curricula are designed using best practices in Excellence in Environmental Education and experiential educational approaches. Age-appropriate, inquiry-based, hands-on and fun adventures are led by trained educators providing a unique experience for every visit.

- Each 2-hour Bok Adventure includes independent learning and direct instruction. Expect your students to be delighted and challenged!
- Homeschool groups, scouts, and other mixed-age groups are welcome.

**DISCOVERY AND NATURE PLAY**

* Programs for Preschool – Grade 1

Bring your students to Hammock Hollow Children’s Garden where our educators will engage them in a variety of fun activities as they learn, explore, and create. Discovery and Nature Play adventures include 1-hour of free nature play with extra-staffed activities in Hammock Hollow and a 1-hour round trip through the Gardens to the Singing Tower to feed the koi.

**Choose the focus of your Discovery and Nature Play adventure:**

- Insects Up Close
- Math in the Gardens
- Roots and Shoots
- Splash! Grant Freshwater Education

**Hammock Hollow**

HAS FOUNTAINS AND A WATER PUMP, SO YOUR STUDENTS WILL GET WET IF YOU LET THEM!

“I really loved the children’s garden activities and the students being able to choose their learning and explore.”

— CITRUS RIDGE ACADEMY, KINDERGARTEN
BUILDING CHARACTER
* Programs for Grades 2 – 12
Students will learn teamwork, communication, and courtesy as they work together to solve challenges during this nature-based team-building program. Activities and cooperative games encourage everyone to work to get to know each other, appreciate the differences in people, create positive relationships, practice leadership skills, understand group dynamics, and laugh together. And, your students will learn how teamwork was crucial in building the Tower as they feed the koi.

INSECTS UP CLOSE
* Programs for Grades 2 – 5
Bok Tower Gardens is home to a myriad of insect species; beautiful butterflies, busy bees, and lovely ladybugs, just to name a few. Insect lovers, and those who find them a bit icky, will have fun on this adventure, digging through compost, hunting for insects in their habitat, and learning about insect life cycles. Students will get to act out the relationship between insect pollinators and plants, and understand our dependence on insect pollinators for our food. Your students will also enjoy a sweet honey tasting of different Florida honeys or “eat like insects” while learning about insect mouth adaptations!

MATH IN THE GARDENS
* Programs for Grades 2 – 5
Math is everywhere at Bok Tower Gardens, from the large round head of a sunflower to the grand landscape design of Fredrick Law Olmsted, Jr. Your students will delight in the beauty of math as they work together to find and compare hidden shapes and patterns in nature, measure angles, perimeter, area, and volume, and find lines of symmetry in natural objects. They can even go inside a coordinate grid on our lawn and explore beginning fractions in our Outdoor Kitchen!

ROOTS AND SHOOTS
* Programs for Grades 2 – 5
What better place to learn about plants than a garden? Through hands-on activities and games, your students will discover what plants need to make their own food, experience the plant diversity in our Gardens, learn about the life cycle of a flowering plant, and understand how plants spread their seeds into the environment. There is even a stop in our Outdoor Kitchen to make the connection between different plant parts, their functions, and the food that we eat.

SPLASH! GRANT FRESHWATER EDUCATION
* Programs for Grades 2 – 5
Bok Tower Gardens is an approved freshwater education field trip site for the Splash! Grant program administered by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Your students will explore sources of freshwater in the Garden during a water walk, play a water cycle game, test water quality in our moat by the Singing Tower, and dip net in Pinewood Pond to learn about a pond ecosystem.
**GROWING WRITERS**

*Program for Grades 4 – 5*

Use the beautiful natural setting of Bok Tower Gardens and the extraordinary story of Edward Bok to inspire your students’ writing! Students will use their five senses to experience salsa and chips, and then explore the Gardens, collecting observations that will be fashioned into metaphors and similes, their own nature poem, and a unique perspective writing. Students will consider how they can “make you the world a bit better or more beautiful because you have lived in it”, as Edward Bok’s grandmother said to him.

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**COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION**

*Programs for Grades 6 – 12 and Transition Programs*

Bring your students to beautiful Bok Tower Gardens for their next community-based instruction field trip. Your students will learn firsthand from Bok Tower employees what it takes to keep the Gardens running smoothly, from the Café to the Gift Shop to the Visitor Center. Walking to the Singing Tower to feed the koi, viewing our short video about Bok Tower Gardens’ history, and visiting our museum is included in this adventure. We would love to be a part of your students’ community experiences!

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“We had a blast! The students were engaged the whole time and it was an easy walk for all of them!”

– OSCAR J POPE ELEMENTARY, 2ND GRADE
**BIG IDEAS IN SCIENCE**

Bok Tower Gardens’ educational curriculum is science-based with an experiential approach. We focus on how science is done—observation, investigation, research, recording, and inference. Engaging activities in the life sciences explore diversity, adaptations, and interdependence. Using science vocabulary, tools, and practices we connect the experiential learning students are doing today to the global scientific community. At Bok Tower Gardens, students become scientists!

**LANGUAGE ARTS FLORIDA STANDARDS**

Rich vocabulary, interactive discussions, and opportunities to share learning are the backbone of experiential education at Bok Tower Gardens. Students are active learners, working together to build upon what they know and to build their skills in communication. Bok Tower Gardens archives are publicly accessible as an online digital collection to aid in pre- and post-trip primary source document research. The Education Department also has a lending library for students featuring historical stories and ecological literacy titles.

**MATHEMATICAL STANDARDS**

Math practices connect with science and language standards to create a foundational approach to learning during the educational tours at Bok Tower Gardens. Students measure and record their data in multiple expressions: orally, visually, and in print. Applying geometric concepts and studying symmetry and patterns are a natural fit in the Garden setting.

**SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS**

History comes to life at Bok Tower Gardens. Edward Bok’s life story from child immigrant to the editor of the most influential magazine of its day inspires students to be engaged in their education and to act as active members of the community. His legacy is the mission of the Gardens: “Make you the world better or more beautiful having lived in it.” Our approach uses his story as a source of information, inspiration, and reflection. Our website contains the digital archives of photos, letters, music, and other primary sources.

**HOW BOK TOWER GARDENS TOURS MEET STATE STANDARDS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Character standards available upon request.</td>
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</table>
**EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

Thursday, April 21, 2022 and Friday, April 22, 2022
Festival for Grades K-5
No class size limit

Celebrate Earth Day at Bok Tower Gardens! Students participate in hands-on activities at booths staffed by environmental organizations from around central Florida. Exhibitors may change year to year and have included themes such as recycling, protecting wildlife, water conservation, gardening, live animals, plant giveaways, and more!

Great for homeschool families! All group sizes welcome. Registration is open for 2022; please use the Field Trip Reservation Inquiry form found at: https://boktowergardens.org/education/make-your-reservation/ to register for this event. Pre-registration is required.

Praise for the Earth Day Festival: “Fantastic day! Everyone at Bok did an excellent job”

Some of the attendees favorite activities included: orange juicing, weather safety, telescopes, reptiles, bees and honey, aquaponics, earth ball, butterfly tent, and learning about the Singing Tower.

“My class enjoyed the event very much.”

“You all continue to improve! Thank you!”
SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Programs for Grade 6 – College

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Teachers can contact Becky Mallison, Education Manager at 863-734-1221 or bmallison@boktower.org to begin the conversation for their student groups.

Is your group in need of Community Service Hours? Service learning projects at Bok Tower Gardens are available as a custom-created experience. Opportunities include working in the:

- Greenhouse: weeding, washing pots, sweeping leaves, and potting plants.
- Natural Lands: marking and/or pulling out invasive plant species, collecting seeds, and garbage removal.
- Gardens: mulching plant beds and paths, and working in the raised beds in the Edible Garden.

SELF-GUIDED GARDEN EXPLORATIONS
For Kindergarten – College • No class size limit

Plan your own adventure and give your students the key to the Gardens. Bok Tower Gardens is a great place for your students to enjoy their independence and explore safely. Experience the excitement when students take charge of their learning in the classic and refined gardens.

Teachers, scouts, church groups, and colleges are welcome to bring students for self-guided visits. Our staff will orient the group, then the group is welcome to tour the Gardens at their own pace.

GARDEN ADVENTURE GUIDE

The Garden Adventure Guide is a printed activity guide available for all our young visitors. It includes a map to the rubbing tile posts and Gardens, as well as a Singing Tower jumble puzzle and other activities to deepen families’ and children’s engagement in the natural world. Garden Adventure Guides and rubbing paper for the tile posts may be requested by teachers when they book a Self-Guided Garden Explorations field trip for their students, or are available at the Information Desk in the Visitor Center.

Check out these Bok Tower Gardens inspired coloring pages, puzzles, and games at https://boktowergardens.org/education-conservation/
WHAT IS NATURE PLAY?
Nature Play is unstructured play in natural areas. Nature play is open-ended, free exploration and recreation without interruptive adult regulation. Many grown-ups will remember nature play as simply their quintessential childhood experience. Today, many factors prevent children from enjoying unstructured time outdoors. Bok Tower Gardens’ Children’s Garden, Hammock Hollow, offers a safe place for exploration with many opportunities for young children to connect with nature.

WHY IS NATURE PLAY IMPORTANT?
There is a growing body of research data about the multiple positive impacts of nature play on children’s social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being. Richard Louv’s best-selling book, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder, details these benefits.

“Children are smarter, more cooperative, happier and healthier when they have frequent and varied opportunities for free and unstructured play in the out-of-doors.”*

FIELD TRIPS AND HAMMOCK HOLLOW

- Bok Adventure groups are welcome to visit Hammock Hollow after the guided tour has ended. We recommend planning for 30 minutes to 1 hour of play time.
- We recommend a maximum of two classes visit Hammock Hollow at a time.
- Self-guided tour groups are encouraged to tour the Gardens first and then visit Hammock Hollow afterward. We recommend self-guided tours lasting 1.5 to 2 hours, with an additional 30 minutes to 1 hour for play at Hammock Hollow.
- Hammock Hollow includes water features that allow children to get wet.

Hammock Hollow balances appropriate risky play and safety so that children of all ages and abilities will find challenges physically and mentally. Natural elements provide loose parts (shells, acorns, sticks, and more!) with which children can use their imaginations to play in endless variety. When children create their own play and negotiate rules with peers, they are practicing being helpful, healthy, and happy members of society. But most importantly—play is how we have fun!

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the children’s safety and are also part of making the experience positive and fun. We encourage adults to actively participate in play at Hammock Hollow by being present for children without interrupting play unless necessary. Marvel at the skills your students are developing during play, participate in the play as the child directs, and allow that learning is part of play but is not the goal of play.
## PLAN your VISIT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>DATE/TIME/ DURATION</th>
<th>COST*</th>
<th>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bok Adventures (Guided)</td>
<td>PK – 12</td>
<td>Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 2 hours</td>
<td>$7/student** 1 free adult/5 students, additional adults $10 each</td>
<td>Minimum – 15 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth Day Festival (Self-Guided)</td>
<td>K – 5, but older are welcome</td>
<td>April 21 and 22 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. 3 hours</td>
<td>$7/student, 1 free adult/5 students, additional adults $10 each</td>
<td>No class size limit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Learning (Guided)</td>
<td>6 – College</td>
<td>Varies depending on project</td>
<td>No cost</td>
<td>Varies depending on project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Guided Garden Explorations</td>
<td>K – College</td>
<td>Sun. – Sat. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
<td>$5/student, 1 free adult/5 students, additional adults $10 each</td>
<td>No class size limit</td>
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* Group rate cannot be combined with memberships and passes. All group reservations must be paid in one payment to qualify for the group rate. Payments are final and non-refundable. ** Thanks to philanthropic support, we are able to offer a discounted rate.
REGISTER YOUR CLASS FOR A PROGRAM:

1) Visit our field trip page online for updated information and to place an initial inquiry at: https://boktowergardens.org/education/make-your-reservation/.

2) Contact Becky Mallison, Education Manager directly by calling 863-734-1221 or emailing bmallison@boktower.org or education@boktower.org to reserve a date.

3) For guided tours, book at least 3 weeks in advance. For self-guided tours, book at least 1 week in advance.

4) Review the Field Trip Reservation Agreement and submit a non-refundable $50 deposit or a purchase order for the total cost of the visit. This must be completed 3 weeks prior to your field trip date to keep your reservation unless otherwise specified.

5) Watch for your pre-visit email containing important information for your trip. Call 863-734-1221 or email bmallison@boktower.org if you do not receive a pre-visit email within a week before the date of your field trip.

6) Please notify us of any students with special needs when you review your Field Trip Reservation Agreement, so that we can better accommodate their needs.

7) Payment balance is due on or before the day of your field trip. We accept either cash, check, credit card or purchase order.

GET READY FOR YOUR VISIT TO BOK TOWER GARDENS:

- The pre-visit email includes program policies and a chaperone letter. Please review these documents and share with all participating teachers and chaperones.

- If you plan to picnic, please bring all lunches in coolers or boxes for easy transport. No refrigeration services are available at Bok Tower Gardens.

- Call us as soon as possible at 863-734-1221 or 863-676-1408 ext. 0, if there are any changes to your reservation or if you need to cancel. Your deposit will not be refunded if cancellation is made less than 30 days in advance; however, the deposit can be moved to a new field trip date.

SHARING THE GIFT
Programs are made affordable through corporate and philanthropic support.
MISSION
TO SHARE EDWARD
BOK’S GIFT SO THAT
ALL WHO VISIT WILL
BE INSPIRED TO MAKE
YOU THE WORLD A
BIT BETTER OR MORE
BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE
YOU HAVE LIVED IN IT.

CONTACT US:
FIND OUR FIELD TRIP INFORMATION REQUEST FORM ONLINE AT:
BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG/EDUCATION/MAKE-YOUR-RESERVATION/

FOR MORE DETAILS, CALL THE EDUCATION MANAGER AT 863-734-1221
OR EMAIL EDUCATION@BOKTOWER.ORG