

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a bright orange t-shirt and a green headband with blue sunglasses, is looking through a magnifying glass at a plant in a black pot. He is standing in a greenhouse filled with various potted plants, including ferns and daisies. The background shows more plants on shelves.

BOK^o ADVENTURE - GUIDE

2023–2024

BOK TOWER
GARDENS

BUILDING ON MORE THAN 94 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.

Bok Tower Gardens inspires visitors to make the world better and more beautiful by building connections to themselves, each other and nature.

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
- Building Character
- 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. Students will have fun on this adventure, digging through compost, hunting for insects in their habitat, and learning about insect life cycles. They will explore the relationship between insect pollinators and plants, and begin to understand our dependence on pollinators for our food.

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.

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 are excited to be a part of your students' community experiences!

DISCOVERY AND NATURE PLAY:

"The children really enjoyed their trip. They were very engaged. They all stated they had a great day and would definitely enjoy coming again."

PARKLAND PRESCHOOL K-4TH

BUILDING CHARACTER:

"We have noticed our students have social skill issues and lack empathy. We believe it is due to 2020 when they were in 1st grade. They weren't able to finish out the school year during to COVID. They lack emotional intelligence. Character Building was exactly what they needed to listen to others! Thank you!"

**HIGHLANDS GROVE ELEMENTARY
4TH GRADE**

"The students loved learning about all the different flowers, and the rhythm of life through drumming, playing the listening game to find their tree with their partners, running in the open meadow, and feeding the koi fish. Your staff was great with each student and patient too!"

**HIGHLANDS GROVE ELEMENTARY
4TH GRADE**

"Best experience ever, so far it has been my kid's favorite field trip. We had so much fun. Our guide was so nice, kind, fun and patient with our kids.

We had different ages in our group since it's a homeschooling group, but she was able to engage with all of them. Thanks Bok Tower!"

**RIVERVIEW HOMESCHOOL
GROUP K-6TH**



INSECTS UP CLOSE

"My students loved digging in compost and learning about life cycles."

BRIGHAM ACADEMY 2ND GRADE

"Having actual biologists talking to our students was wonderful. My students were enthralled with pollinators."

SOUTH MCKEEL ACADEMY 3RD GRADE

"When the students had the investigation of the 'tubs' time, raking through the dirt and discovering the living and non-living things. They were provided with magnifying glasses, tweezers, I believe and just a few guidelines and then were allowed to 'go to it' which was eye-opening for us teachers as they didn't fight over tools or tubs - they just worked around each other and had a very pleasant time! Good job, Bok discovery team!"

SOUTH MCKEEL ACADEMY 3RD GRADE

SPLASH! GRANT FRESHWATER EDUCATION:

"My students loved dip netting!"

BERKLEY CHARTER SCHOOL 4TH GRADE

"I loved all the water activities that you planned for our little kindergarten students. We are excited to come again next year."

POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY, KINDERGARTEN

"The program was so organized and very engaging. Everyone loved it!!

POLK AVENUE ELEMENTARY, KINDERGARTEN

COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION

"This was an excellent opportunity/experience for my students. Becky was very informative, patient, and knowledgeable. She had many other people talk with my students about the opportunities at Bok Tower. Thank you so much for providing this wonderful opportunity for the students!"

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TRANSITION
PROGRAM, ADULTS**

"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.



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.



HEALTH STANDARDS

Providing students with the knowledge and skills they need throughout their lifetime is a priority at Bok Tower Gardens. Our primary focus revolves around promoting health and well-being where students will engage with physical, mental and emotional well-being. At Bok Tower Gardens, our aim is to empower students to become health advocates, equipped with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions that not only positively impacts their well-being but that of their communities, cultivating a healthier and happier world.

Insects Up Close:

Grades K – 5

Science: SC.K.L.14.3, SC.K.N.1.1, SC.K.N.1.2, SC.K.N.1.5, SC.1.E.5.3, SC.1.E.6.1, SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.17.1, SC.2.E.6.2, SC.2.L.16.1, SC.2.L.17.1, SC.2.L.17.2, SC.3.L.14.1, SC.3.N.1.3, SC.3.N.3.2, SC.4.E.6.5, SC.4.L.16.1, SC.4.L.16.4, SC.4.L.17.2,

SC.4.L.17.3, SC.4.N.1.6,

SC.4.N.3.1, SC.5.L.14.2,

SC.5.L.17.1

Math: MAFS.2.MD.4.10

Splash!

Grant Freshwater Education: Grades K – 5

Science: SC.K.L.14.3, SC.K.N.1.1, SC.K.N.1.2, SC.K.N.1.3, SC.K.N.1.5, SC.1.E.6.1, SC.1.E.6.2, SC.1.L.17.1,

SC.1.N.1.3, SC.2.L.17.1,

SC.2.L.17.2, SC.2.P.8.4,

SC.3.N.1.3, SC.3.N.3.2,

SC.3.N.3.3, SC.3.P.9.1,

SC.4.E.6.6, SC.4.N.1.6,

SC.4.N.3.1, SC.5.E.7.1,

SC.5.E.7.2

Building Character

Grades K – 12

HE.K.B.4.1, HE.K.B.4.2, HE.K.B.5, HE.K.P.7.1,

SC.K.L.14.1, HE.1.C.1.2,

HE.1.C.2.2, HE.1.B.4.1,

HE.1.B.4.2, HE.2.C.1.2,

HE.2.B.4.1, HE.2.PHC.1.5,

HE.3.B.4.1, HE.3.B.4.3,

HE.3.B.4.4, HE.3.P.7.1,

HE.3.P.8.1, HE.4.C.1.2,

HE.4.B.4.1, HE.4.B.4.3,

HE.5.C.1.2, HE.5.B.4.1,

HE.5.B.4.3, HE.6.C.1.2,

HE.6.C.2.9, HE.6.B.4.1,

HE.6.B.4.3, HE.6.B.5.4,

HE.7.C.1.2, HE.7.C.2.9,

HE.7.B.4.1, HE.7.B.5.4,

HE.8.C.1.2, HE.8.B.4.1,

HE.8.B.5.4, HE.912.C.1.2,

HE.912.C.2.9, HE.912.B.4.1,

HE.912.B.4.3, HE.912.B.4.4,

HE.912.B.5.1, HE.912.B.5.4



Earth Day Festival '24

*No class size limit

ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL • FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024 • FESTIVAL FOR GRADES K-5



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 2024; please use the Field Trip Reservation Inquiry form by clicking on “Make Your Reservation” found at: boktowergardens.org/build-your-bok-adventure/ to register for this event. Pre-registration is required.



Some of the attendees' favorite activities included: foot prints, animal skins, recycling-Keep Polk Beautiful, animal stamping, butterfly tent, and learning about the Singing Tower.”

**FROM THE
EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**



SELF-GUIDED GARDEN EXPLORATIONS

For Kindergarten – College

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 the bottom of the webpage:
boktowergardens.org/build-your-bok-adventure/



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.

Our Service Learning projects take place in the field with our Horticulture team and are generally focused on removing invasive plants. This work is important to our Gardens, as invasive species can contribute to extinctions of native plants and animals, reduce biodiversity, compete with native organisms for limited resources, and alter habitats. Other projects may include mulching plant beds and paths. After your project, you are welcome to enjoy the Gardens!

Teachers must schedule Service Learning projects at least 8 weeks in advance, with the understanding that not all dates and days of the week can be accommodated. Please contact the Education Department at 863-734-1221 or education@boktower.org to begin the conversation for their student groups.



Hammock Hollow

Children's Garden

WHAT IS NATURE PLAY?

Invite your students to splash, climb, explore and learn in our children's garden. Hammock Hollow is 2.7 acres of water and wonders that will delight students ages 2-12. In Hammock Hollow, your students will play with sound to create melodies, find a stage to act out their favorite stories, and climb over and through beautiful sculptures that subtly teach about the unique animals that make their home in central Florida. Plan on spending at least an hour in Hammock Hollow before heading up to the Tower to enjoy the view from Iron Mountain. You may combine a visit to Hammock Hollow with a guided Bok Adventure.

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." (*Children and Nature 2008: A Report on the Movement to Reconnect Children to the Natural World*, Children and Nature Network)



Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



FIELD TRIPS AND HAMMOCK HOLLOW

WE
RECOMMEND

- 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

PROGRAM	GRADE	DATE/TIME/ DURATION	COST*	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Bok Adventures (Guided)	PK – 12	Tues. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 2 hours	\$7/student** 1 free adult/ 5 students	Minimum – 15 students Maximum Chaperones - 1 to every 5 students
Earth Day Festival (Self-Guided)	K – 5, but older are welcome	April 19 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 3 hours	\$7/student, 1 free adult/ 5 students	No class size limit No chaperone limit
Service Learning (Guided)	6 – College	Mon. – Fri. Projects vary in length based on needs	No cost	Varies depending on project
Self-Guided Garden Explorations	K – College	Sun. – Sat. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	\$5/student, 1 free adult/ 5 students	Maximum - 100 students Maximum Chaper- ones - 1 to every 5 students

* 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: boktowergardens.org/build-your-bok-adventure/ and click on “Make Your Reservation.”
- 2 Contact the Education Department directly by calling 863-734-1221 or emailing 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 nonrefundable \$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 education@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.



Find our field trip information request form online at:
BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG/EDUCATION/MAKE-YOUR-RESERVATION/

For more details, contact the Education Department at:
863-734-1221 or EDUCATION@BOKTOWER.ORG



BOK TOWER
GARDENS

1151 TOWER BOULEVARD | LAKE WALES, FL 33853 | 863-734-1221 | BOKTOWERGARDENS.ORG