Inspire your students in our native plant garden!

Connecting with nature fosters lifelong interest in the sciences and the world around us. Our 78-acre California native plant garden is an ideal outdoor classroom to inspire lifelong environmental stewardship and engage students in exploring the wonders of nature.

Topics addressed during our school programs include: structure, function, and growth requirements of plants; ecology and adaptations; and Chumash uses of native plants.

Wonders All Around Us
Experience California’s nature first-hand among amazing plants and animals in one of the nation’s oldest native plant gardens. Students utilize their senses to investigate how plants interact with animals and their environment while taking the time to slow down and appreciate the wonders all around us.
60 minutes—$75 Grades: K-2

Habitats & Homes
With native plants at the foundation of a healthy ecosystem, we’ll explore how plants are interconnected with both animals and humans. During Garden walk, students experience California’s diverse native habitats, as well as the animals and life they support.
60 minutes—$75 Grades: 3-5

Leaves of Learning
During this 2-hour experience, students explore the adaptations of our native plants through a whole new light. Before their Garden tour, students utilize our Zeiss microscopes, models, journals, and dissecting equipment to better understand how plants function and interact with their environment. Afterwards, we investigate some of the amazing adaptations of our native plants in our living collections.
120 minutes—$125 Grades: 3-5

Garden Programs are aligned with:
- Next Generation Science Standards
- California Common Core Standards
- CA Environmental Education Initiative

STEM Tours
Tour cap 30 students

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**The Art of Observation—Tour & Classroom Visit**  
*Fall Only*

Students will enhance their critical thinking and observational skills as they gain a new perspective on the local plant and animal species in this expanded exploration program. Before their field trip, Nature Educators visit the classroom to introduce students to the art of observation. Students learn how to utilize their senses and tools such as hand lenses, journals, and binoculars to explore the wonders and mysteries found within their schoolyard. On their tour, students put their skills to use while observing the interconnected relationships and ecology of our native plants and habitats. Afterwards, we’ll enhance their discoveries in the Garden’s Plant Lab.

60 minute Classroom Visit & 120 minute Tour — $175 Grades: 3-5

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**Social Studies Tour**

**Chumash Uses of Native Plants**

Students will experience how native plants influence culture through hands-on learning stations that explore native plant species the Chumash culture favors for making food, clothing, shelter, and more. Explore and touch animal skins, acorns, fibers, clapper sticks, and Chumash games. Learn how an intimate relationship with nature fosters a culture of respect, resourcefulness, and sustainability.

90 minutes—$150 Grades: 3-4

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**Post-Tour Add-On**

**Plant Lab Experience**

After your tour, gain a new perspective of the natural world using professional-grade microscopes in the Garden’s Plant Lab. Plant materials are provided, as well as collected by students on their tour. Please indicate when you make your reservation if you are interested in scheduling a lab.

45 minutes—Free Grades: K-5

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**Self-Guided Visits**

Visit cap 60 participants | Lab cap 30 students

Teacher-lead, self-guided visits may be arranged at a reduced entrance fee. A Plant Lab may be scheduled for groups up to 30 students for an additional fee.

*Admission Fees:* Teachers & Chaperones—$2 off admission; Students—$0.50 each  
Plant Lab fee add-on: $65 plus admission fees

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**Reservation Information**

**Availability**

- **Date & Times:** School Tours are scheduled on Tuesday, Thursday, and select Wednesday mornings at 9:30am, October - June. 10am start times may be requested for schools located outside of Santa Barbara or Goleta.
- **The Art of Observation Tour & Classroom Visit:** This two-contact program is only available in the fall from October until the first week of December. Classroom visits are available in the afternoons; the Garden tour must be scheduled on a Wednesday for this program.

**Important Information**

- **Tour Discounts:** Classes with over 50% of students on free or reduced lunches are eligible to receive a 50% reduction on tour fees as well as a reimbursement on bus costs. Reimbursed bussing is available for any group that schedules their tour in October.
- **Payment:** Payment is due 30 days after your reservation has been made. Failure to provide payment by the designated date will result in a cancellation of your tour. Please make checks payable to: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden c/o Registrar, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.
- **Cancellations:** In the event that you choose to cancel, please contact the Education Department as soon as possible. Cancellations must be received at least two weeks prior to tour for a full refund. Cancellations within two weeks of your tour date will receive a 75% refund.
- **Rescheduled Tours:** The final two weeks of May are reserved for rescheduling programs cancelled due to inclement weather. In the event of a Red Flag Warning, the Garden is required to close to the public and your tour will be rescheduled.

To Reserve a Visit, Contact:  
www.sbbg.org/sp  
tours@sbbg.org  
(805) 682-4726 ext. 160