

# Education & Visitor Experience



The Garden aspires to be a global leader in environmental education for all ages and audiences by offering engaging activities, accurate information, and impactful experiences that illuminate plants' critical role in supporting all life on Earth. Garden educators offer an array of programming for visitors, students, and special populations in a beautiful tropical setting that connects people with the natural world.

## Daily Programming

**Daily Tours** are led by Education staff, all of whom are Certified Interpretive Guides through the National Association of Interpretation. Tours illuminate our collections, explain natural processes, and remind guests of the life-sustaining roles plants play in our lives.

**Self-directed Smartphone tours** allow guests to explore the Garden on their own. At each stop, guests can listen to a narration and follow along on a transcript; the tour platform also allows us to include photos and videos.

Garden educators offer nearly 40 **Dig Deeper** interactive experiences for adults. More friendly conversation than formal lecture, Dig Deeper explores topics ranging from the botany of beer to how to care for orchids.

**GardenChat** enables guests to text questions and images to Education staff, who are standing by most hours the Garden is open to answer questions in real time.

Guests can join **Birding in the Garden** on Tuesday mornings. Local enthusiasts lead these informal outings. Cornell University's eBird site lists Naples Botanical Garden as a "birding hotspot" with 215 documented species.

**W.O.N.D.E.R.** is drop-in family programming that encourages children to "walk, observe, navigate, draw, explore, read" about a monthly theme. Educators offer up to five different hands-on activities.







## Special Populations

**Nature Journaling: Botany Through Art** is an eight-week online program offered in English and Spanish to adults 55 and older. The course teaches participants the fundamentals of art and how to use the power of observation to capture the nuances of nature.

Individuals with memory impairments and their care partners can participate in **Meet Me in the Garden**, a therapeutic horticulture program that encourages participants to reminisce as well as create new memories while forming intimate connections with nature.

**Sensory-Friendly Saturdays** are free extended-hour opportunities for families with children with sensory sensitivities. We provide hands-on activities for the whole family in an environment free of harsh noises and distractions.



## School Programming

**Let's Grow!** is Naples Botanical Garden's support program for schools, communities, and worksites that want to start gardens. Let's Grow! provides mentoring to garden leaders, offers workshops, assists with garden supplies, encourages networking with other garden leaders, and much more.

**School field trips**, available to students in pre-kindergarten through high school, encourage thinking, enliven concepts that may be difficult to understand or teach in the classroom, and cultivate an awareness of and appreciation for Florida's biodiversity.



In fall 2022, Naples Botanical Garden was selected to join the inaugural **Plants and Climate Change Education** cohort, in partnership with United States Botanic Garden. The Garden's program focuses on educating a group of middle school students about plants, climate change, and local environmental challenges. Through field trips and hands-on activities, students explore the natural wonders of Southwest Florida and discover how they can make a difference in helping our planet.

