

Arboretum Education Extension Activities

In an effort to continue increasing the quality of your students' environmental education experience at Saint John's Arboretum, we are asking for teachers help in including at least some, if not most, of these education extension options during the school year. These options, as decided upon by the Arboretum Education Committee, are based on best practices in environmental education and have the ultimate goal of increasing students' environmental literacy. We desire to make your students' experience much more than just a walk in the woods but instead a high-quality educational experience that is relevant to their own lives and your school's academic goals.

The options are designed to give teachers a high amount of choice in deciding what works best for their students, curriculum, and schedule. They are all aimed at broadening the experience for both students and their teachers. Thank you for your help in making a field trip to Saint John's Arboretum an important part of your students' academic experience!

- **Pre/post activities: These are ways to both introduce your students to the Arboretum and the subject matter they will study and/or wrap up their Arboretum experience back in the classroom**

- Watching Arboretum education video available on our website
www.csbsju.edu/arboretum under 'About Us'
- Taking students through virtual boardwalk loop tour on website
<http://www.csbsju.edu/Arboretum/Stewardship/Maps/VirtualTourBoardwalk.htm>
- Trunk materials of pre/post activities (available for some classes)
- Arboretum staff visit (limited availability)
- Pre/post assessments
- Your own classroom activities

- **Additional time spent on site after Arboretum class**

Classroom teacher would lead an additional ½ - 1 hour immediately after their class or additional time after a lunch break with activities and discussions related to the information the class is learning about. Possible activities include journaling, literature connections, another hands-on activity or game, etc... Arboretum can provide examples of activities specific and equipment if needed.

- **Multiple visits: There are a variety of ways your students can experience the Arboretum multiple times during the school year**

	Examples
<input type="checkbox"/> different season/same class	Insects class in the fall and spring
<input type="checkbox"/> different season/different class	Insects class in fall and Maple Syruping in spring
<input type="checkbox"/> same season/different class	Insects and MN Biomes class in the fall
<input type="checkbox"/> same season/same class	Multiple Insects classes in the fall

- **Teacher education: The Arboretum provides a variety of opportunities for teachers to gain more knowledge and expertise in the natural world**

- Natural History Lecture Series at SJU - free to teachers who bring field trips
3rd Monday of each month Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, March, and April, from 6:30-8:00 at SJU
- Living in the Avon Hills Conference Teacher Strand – February 2012
- Annual August Teacher Trainings - 2012 dates TBD
- check www.csbsju.edu/arboretum for other opportunities