

## Hours of Operation

### GROUPS

**April 1 - October 31:** 8 am - 10 pm  
**November 1 - March 31:** 8 am - 8 pm

### VISITOR CENTER

**April 1 - October 31:**  
Monday - Friday: 8 am - 6 pm  
Saturday - Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm  
**November 1 - March 31:**  
Monday - Friday: 8 am - 4 pm  
Saturday - Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm



# COX ARBORETUM & GARDENS

M·E·T·R·O·P·A·R·K



**COX**  
ARBORETUM  
& GARDENS  
M·E·T·R·O·P·A·R·K

Escape  
Discover  
D  
Grow

6733 Springboro Pike • Dayton, Ohio 45449  
Phone: 937-434-9005 • Fax: 937-438-1221  
[www.coxarboretum.org](http://www.coxarboretum.org)

A FACILITY OF FIVE  
RIVERS METROPARKS



## DISCOVER & GROW TOURS

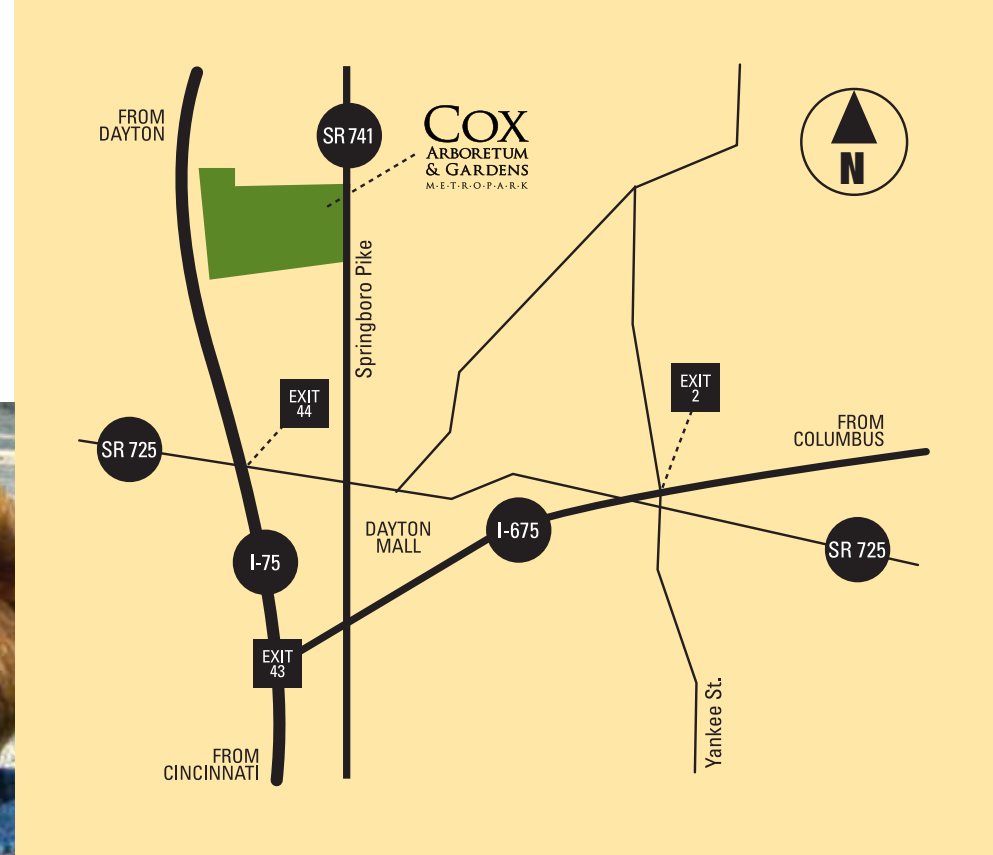
*Programs for Schools*

## School Tours

Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroPark invites you to learn about science through standards-based, hands-on experiences. To schedule one of these free field trip programs for students in kindergarten through high school **call the education department at (937) 434-9005.**

## Teacher Checklist:

- ✓ Choose a program to help you meet the Ohio Academic Standards
- ✓ Call (937)434-9005 to discuss options and make reservations
- ✓ Be ready to discuss:
  - Program name
  - Dates and alternatives
  - Contact address and phone number
  - Number of students and ages
  - Lunch on grounds
  - Special needs
- ✓ Mail or fax tour confirmation to:  
Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroPark, 6733 Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH 45449  
Fax (937)438-1221
- ✓ Prepare for class trip
  - 1 chaperone per 10 students
  - Remind students to wear long pants and sturdy shoes
  - Name tags for each student
  - Bring trash bags if eating on grounds



## Teachers' Field School

Want to lead your own tour but aren't comfortable on the Arboretum grounds? Schedule a private training with Arboretum staff. We will show you the grounds, hands-on activities you can do with your students, and give you an arsenal of nature facts and fancy to make your tour truly unique.

**Available:** Year-round

## Visitor Information

Located south of the city of Dayton, Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroPark is a beautiful 189-acre outdoor garden refuge dedicated to horticultural excellence and providing unique educational experiences for all. The Arboretum is open to the public 7 days a week, with no admission charge. Cox Arboretum is operated and funded by Five Rivers MetroParks and the James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation. Membership and volunteer opportunities are available. Please call (937)434-9005 for more information.

**"I truly believe that the Cox experience for our students was a wonderful way of nurturing both their minds and spirits."**

*—Ann Hirt,*

*Family Resource Teacher,*

*Franklin Montessori School*



## Popular Questions and Answers

### • How much does a tour cost?

All tours are free.

### • Do we need to schedule self-guided tours?

Yes, please call the education department. We will help you to plan your experience and provide maps and confirmations for self-guided tours.

### • How many chaperones do we need to bring?

One chaperone per 10 students required.

### • How many students should I organize in a group?

Groups are usually 10-12 students. We will organize groups when you arrive according to the number of trained volunteers available.

### • Can we eat lunch on the grounds following the tour?

Yes, please let the education department know when you call so we can schedule the appropriate space for your students.

### • Are there indoor activities if it is raining or snowing outside?

No, tours will continue unless it is unsafe for students and volunteers to be outside.

### • What do we do if plans change?

Please call the education department as soon as you decide to cancel or reschedule a tour.

### • Will the Arboretum staff come to our school for a presentation?

No, we can provide the best learning experience through hands-on exploration on the grounds.

### Ohio State Academic Content Standards

A visit to Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroPark will help you meet the requirements of the Ohio State Academic Content Standards – Science Benchmarks. We can help you meet standards in other disciplines too; call the education department at (937) 434-9005.

**"I thought the trip**

**was very**

**well planned."**

*— teacher*

# SCHOOL TOUR OPTIONS

## How Plants Grow

Investigate the lifecycle of a plant from seed to bloom. Students will journey through the Arboretum gardens and natural areas studying plants – their lifecycle, their needs and environment. Students will plant a seed to watch the lifecycle unfurl in their own classroom.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Name at least two needs of plants
- Describe the lifecycle of a plant
- Explain the function of seeds, roots, stems, flowers, and leaves

**Available:** Spring

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 1 – 6



## Buds 'N' Blooms

This hands-on program will introduce your students to the most popular part of the plant, the flower. Students explore flowers, their function and their pollinators.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Understand how plants attract pollinators through color, scent and shape
- Identify the different parts of a flower and understand their functions
- Recognize that flowers come in variety of colors and shapes

**Available:** Spring

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 1 – 6



## Custom Built Field Trips

Nature journaling? Wetland sampling? Landscape artists? You name it! We meet with your teacher team to plan a grade-level trip that meets your instructional goals. A popular format includes 4-5 stations that utilize Arboretum resources to help you teach math, art, cultural studies, language arts, and science.

**Available:** Year-round

## Self-Guided Tours

Who knows your students better than you? Teachers are welcome to bring students out for a self-guided tour and tour the grounds at your own pace. Call the education department to schedule the tour and to receive maps and information about the Arboretum.

**Available:** Year-round

## Career: Making Plants Your Business

Take a behind the scenes look at careers in horticulture, park management, and interpretation. Students will meet staff and volunteers who spend every working day with plants and managing park issues. (Because of the behind the scenes nature of this tour, we can only accommodate up to 20 students per tour).

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Name at least three positions in Parks and Recreation
- List what those jobs entail
- Discuss what type of education/experience is required for those jobs
- Explain what public horticulture is

**Available:** Year-round

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 9 – 12

## Living Forest Tour

Nothing is stagnant in nature. Students will explore the Arboretum looking for examples of how Dayton's natural areas change over time. They will explore a variety of natural habitats common in Dayton and the types of life that survive in these habitats.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Recognize that change is a natural process
- Give examples of how the changes occur (human impact, weather, age...)
- Name a variety of habitats found in Dayton

**Available:** Year-round

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 2 – 8



“Our tour was great  
with walking and  
identifying trees.  
The children were  
delighted to be able  
to touch and compare  
leaves, seeds,  
and bark.”

—teacher, Lutheran School



## Discovery Tour

Blue Herons in the Shrub Garden Pond, the wildlife manager doing a fish study, toads and frogs leaving their watery nursery for dry land in Conservation Corner, leaf color... nature surprises us daily. The Discovery Tour is a hands-on way to take advantage of that magic. Students will use their senses to learn how to observe nature scientifically.



### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Use their sense of smell, touch, sight and hearing to make discoveries in nature
- Name a variety of habitats within the Arboretum
- Explain how the seasons affect nature

**Available:** Year-round

**Length:** 1-1/2 to 2 hours

**Grades:** Pre-K – 2 (can be modified to meet need of older students)



“It was a  
wonderful  
experience to  
see, hear, and  
feel new and  
different things.”

–Erica Harvey, student,

Franklin Montessori School

## Natural Ohio

Most students know about the Dayton Dragons, Cincinnati Bengals and Columbus Blue Jackets but how many know the state tree, Ohio wildflowers, and human impact on Ohio landscapes? Students will journey through the Arboretum discovering Ohio's native beauty and our impact, both good and bad, on it.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Identify different species of plants and animals that are native to Ohio
- Compare and contrast the behaviors and attributes of each species
- Identify the pros and cons of developing natural space for human use

**Available:** Year-round

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 6 – 8

## Edible Plant Extravaganza

Plants are a part of our everyday lives. They are essential to our diet and health, the clothes we wear and the environment we live in. Students explore the grounds learning about how people interact with plants everyday, sometimes without even noticing it.

### Learning objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Gain an awareness of the past as well as the present daily uses of plants
- Learn techniques for growing a variety of herbs and other edible plants in a garden
- Demonstrate the process involved in creating a product from plants (teacher can choose making tea, potpourri, or experimenting with natural dyes)

**Available:** Fall and Spring

**Length:** 2 – 4 hours

**Grades:** 6 – 8



## Discover Fall Trees

During the cool days of fall, students will learn about trees and their needs. Discover how nature prepares for cold Dayton winters during this hands-on tour of the natural areas and gardens.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Identify some Dayton trees using leaf shapes (aim for 5 different trees)
- Name at least 2 ways in which seeds travel
- Name at least 3 ways in which nature prepares for winter

**Available:** Fall

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 1 – 7



## Classification: Arranging Nature

How are the books arranged in the library? How are things arranged at the grocery store? Scientists use similar techniques to organize nature and make it easier to understand. Students explore the gardens learning to observe nature and classify it into scientific categories.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Identify different aspects of classification for plants
- Place plants into categories according to characteristics commonly used by scientists
- Use a field guide to identify unknown species

**Available:** Year-round

**Length:** 2 hours

**Grades:** 6 – 8



“The best  
I liked when we  
were on the field trip  
was when we were  
going hiking.”

—student



## Butterfly House

Who doesn't love the butterfly? Students will get up close to this elusive pollinator in our popular summer exhibit. Availability is limited so sign up early.

### Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Explain the phases of complete metamorphosis
- Name 4 native butterflies or moths
- Use observation skills to discover butterflies at all stages of their metamorphosis

**Available:** July to mid-September

**Length:** Butterfly House tour lasts 45 minutes; 15 students can go into Butterfly House at a time. Information for a self-guided garden tour will be included with your confirmation.

**Grades:** K and up