School Field Trips

Formerly the Devonian Botanic Garden

Program Booking Guide
Get your students outside and help them discover their environment through our award-winning interactive outdoor programs! We offer a wide array of nature-based, curriculum-connected programs for kids in grades K-12, led by trained interpreters.

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**Programs at a Glance**

**ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS**

Garden Tour (all grades) - 2 hours
Kids and Critters (Pre-K to Gr. 3) - 2 hours
Going Buggy (Pre-K to Gr. 3) - 2 hours
Wetland Wonders (K to Gr. 6) - 2 or 4 hours
Acting Wild (Gr. 2 to 6) - 2 hours
Plants 101 (Gr. 4) - 2 hours
Plants and People (Gr. 4) - 2 hours
Trees and Forests (Gr. 4 to 6) - 2 hours
Wildlife of Alberta - I (Gr. 4 to 6) - 2 hours
Cultural Gardens Tour (Gr. 5 to 8) - 2 hours

**JUNIOR HIGH / HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Cultural Gardens Tour (Gr. 5 to 8) - 2 hours
Forest Ecology (Gr. 7 to 9) - 2 hours
Wildlife of Alberta - II (Gr. 7 to 9) - 2 hours
Conserving Biodiversity (Gr. 7 to 12) - 2 hours
Aquatic/Terrestrial Study (Biology 20/30) - 4 hour

**SCHOOL FIELD TRIP SEASONS**

**SPRING** - May and June
Bookings start September of previous year

**FALL** - September & October
Bookings start mid-January of current year

**Summer Field Trips** - July & August
Recommended for daycares, summer day camps, clubs and early childhood groups, with a focus on outdoor fun. Bookings start mid-January of current year.
HOW TO BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP

1. Pick Your Program
   Review the information in this guide to determine the right program for your class.

2. Submit a Field Trip Request Form
   Go to https://botanicgarden.ualberta.ca/fieldtrips

3. We’ll Get in Touch
   Once we receive your Field Trip Request, an Education team member will follow up to go over your booking details and prepare your contract.

4. Return Your Contract & Deposit
   Once we receive your signed contract and deposit, your booking will be confirmed.

PROGRAM PRICING - NEW! GROUP PRICING

- **FULL DAY BOOKING** with Lunch Space
  *Aquatic/Terrestrial program $390 per group
  $335/Group
  [up to 30 students per group]

- **HALF DAY BOOKING** with Lunch Space
  $285/Group
  [up to 30 students per group]

- **HALF DAY BOOKING** without Lunch Space or Unescorted Time
  $235/Group
  [up to 30 students per group]

* Groups exceeding 30 children must book an additional program.
** Groups with fewer than 20 children - please contact the education department for availability & pricing.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellation or a reduction/changes in number of groups booked must be confirmed by email at uabg.education@ualberta.ca at least 10 business days in advance of field trip date.
- Cancellations or any changes to booking within 10 days of field trip date will be billed the entire booking amount.
- Deposits are non-refundable.
- The Garden does NOT cancel programs in inclement weather (eg. rain, snow) unless severe (eg. extreme winds, tornadoes).
Elementary Programs

GARDEN TOUR

All Grades | 2 Hour Program

Learn interesting facts about the Japanese Garden, new Aga Khan Garden, indoor showhouses and butterfly house, led by a UABG interpreter.

Areas & concepts covered:
Kurimoto Japanese Garden
• Japanese Culture
• Japanese Landscape Design

Aga Khan Garden
• Islamic Garden Design
• Geometry and Pattern

Showhouses
• Butterfly Life Cycles
• Plant Adaptations
• People’s Use of Plants (edible, medicinal & sensory)

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 1  Unit B: Seasonal Changes
          Unit D: Senses
          Unit E: Needs of Plants and Animals
Grade 2  Unit E: Small Crawling & Flying Animals
Grade 3  Unit E: Animal Life Cycles

GOING BUGGY

Pre-K to Grade 3 | 2 Hour Program

In this engaging program, students capture real insects and discuss their adaptations, feeding, reproduction and life cycles. Program includes interactive games and a tour of the butterfly house.

Concepts Covered:
• Common Alberta Insects
• Life Cycles: Complete and Incomplete
• Egg, larvae, pupa, adult
• Butterfly Life Cycles
• Metamorphosis
• Habitats

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 1  Unit B: Seasonal Changes
          Unit D: Senses
          Unit E: Needs of Plants and Animals
Grade 2  Unit E: Small Crawling and Flying Animals
Grade 3  Unit E: Animal Life Cycles

KIDS AND CRITTERS

Pre-K to Grade 3 | 2 Hour Program

An ideal way to connect younger students with animals of Alberta. Students learn about the life cycles and needs of our native critters, handle mounted specimens and play interactive games.

Concepts covered:
• Native Alberta Species
• Needs of Animals
• Wildlife Habitat
• Adaptations (types and reasons)
• Food Webs
• producer/consumer relationships
• herbivore/carnivore/omnivore

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 1  Unit B: Seasonal Changes
          Unit D: Senses
          Unit E: Needs of Plants and Animals
Grade 2  Unit E: Small Crawling and Flying Animals
Grade 3  Unit E: Animal Life Cycles
WETLAND WONDERS

K to Grade 6 | 2 or 4 Hour Programs Available

Use nets to capture a wide variety of pond critters, and take an in-depth look at the pond ecosystems at the Garden. Students also learn about frog life cycles and try their luck at catching some in our wetland areas.

Concepts Covered:
- Types of Wetlands
- Wetland Flora and Fauna
- Habitat
- Life Cycles: Complete and Incomplete
- Frog Life Cycles
- Adaptations
- Food Chain – consumer, producer, and decomposer

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 1: Unit B: Seasonal Changes
   - Unit D: Senses
   - Unit E: Needs of Plants and Animals
Grade 2: Unit A: Exploring Liquids
   - Unit E: Small Crawling and Flying Animals
Grade 3: Unit E: Animal Life Cycles
Grade 4: Unit A: Waste and Our World
   - Unit E: Plant Growth and Change
Grade 5: Unit E: Wetland Ecosystems
Grade 6: Unit D: Evidence and Investigation

*Students are encouraged to bring rubber boots or old runners for this program*

ACTING WILD

Grade 2 to Grade 6 | 2 Hour Program

Let loose and set your inner animal free! Learn all about the fascinating adaptations and needs of Alberta’s wildlife through role-play and drama.

Concepts Covered:
- Native Alberta Species
- Empathy Towards Wildlife
- Habitat and Diet
- Human Impacts
- Wildlife Relationships
- Adaptations: Different Types and Reasons
- Camouflage vs. warning colouration

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 1: Unit B: Seasonal Changes
   - Unit D: Senses
   - Unit E: Needs of Plants and Animals
Grade 2: Unit E: Small Crawling and Flying Animals
Grade 3: Unit D: Hearing and Sound
   - Unit E: Animal Life Cycles
Grade 4: Unit A: Waste and Our World
   - Unit E: Plant Growth and Changes
Grade 5: Unit D: Weather Watch
Grade 6: Unit D: Evidence and Investigation
   - Unit E: Trees and Forests
PLANTS 101
Grade 4 | 2 Hour Program
An introduction to the fascinating world of plants! Students learn about basic plant parts and needs, adaptations to the environment, and plant ecosystems. Program includes a hike through native forest, tour of the indoor showhouses and interactive game.

Concepts Covered:
• Plant Anatomy
• Plant Reproduction
• Pollination
• Plant Adaptations
• Seed Dispersal
• Photosynthesis

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 4: Unit E: Plant Growth and Changes

PLANTS AND PEOPLE
Grade 4 | 2 Hour Program
Explore some of the many relationships between people and plants. Students learn different ways humans depend on and use plants, such as agriculture and medicine, and will plant a seed to take home!

Concepts Covered:
• Propagation
• Asexual Reproduction
• Human Uses of Plants
• How to Plant a Seed
• Plant Adaptations

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 4: Unit E: Plant Growth and Changes

TREES AND FORESTS
Grade 4 to Grade 6 | 2 Hour Program
An engaging introduction to the native plants in our local forests. Students learn about the parts of trees, how they function. Groups participate in a number of hands-on activities such as tree identification, and learn about forest wildlife.

Concepts Covered:
• Deciduous vs. Coniferous Trees
• Tree Identification
  - dichotomous key
  - leaf arrangements / varieties
• Tree Growth and Ring Layers
• Tree Anatomy
• Nutrient Transportation
• Native Alberta Species
• Wildlife Adaptations and Habitat

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 4: Unit A: Waste and Our World
  Unit E: Plant Growth and Changes
Grade 5: Unit D: Weather Watch
Grade 6: Unit D: Evidence and Investigation
  Unit E: Trees and Forests
WILDLIFE OF ALBERTA

Grade 4 to Grade 6 | 2 Hour Program

Discover the fascinating animals of Alberta and their connections to our local ecosystem. Study native wildlife hands-on with mounted specimens, interactive activities and a forest version of the Predator and Prey game that will help students learn about food webs and animal adaptations.

Concepts Covered:
• Alberta Native Species
• Animal Adaptations and Diet
• Food Web
• Herbivore, carnivore, omnivore
• Predator / Prey Relationships
• Human Threat
• Survival Strategies
• Habitat and Food Sources
• Ecosystems

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 4: Unit A: Waste and Our World
    Unit E: Plant Growth & Changes
Grade 5: Unit E: Wetland Ecosystems
Grade 6: Unit D: Evidence and Investigation
    Unit E: Trees and Forests

NEW! CULTURAL GARDEN TOUR

Grade 5 to Grade 8 | 2 Hour Program

Experience three distinct and unique cultural gardens in one day. Tour the Kurimoto Japanese Garden, Aga Khan Garden and Indigenous People’s garden, led by a UABG interpreter.

Areas & Concepts Covered:
• Kurimoto Japanese Garden
  - Japanese Culture
  - Japanese Landscape design
• Aga Khan Garden
  - Islamic Garden Deign
  - Geometry and Pattern
• Indigenous Peoples Garden
  - Indigenous Traditions and Culture
  - Indigenous Use of Plants

Curriculum Ties:
Grade 5: Canada: The Land, Histories and Stories
Grade 7: Canada: Origins, Histories and Movement of People
Grade 8: Historical Worldviews Examined
FOREST ECOLOGY

Grade 7 to Grade 9 | 2 Hour Program

Students are introduced to native plants of the boreal, mixed-wood and parkland forests. Learn about tree processes and growth, and gain some tree identification skills. Program includes an examination of forest wildlife, habitats and survival adaptations.

Concepts Covered:

- Deciduous vs. Coniferous Trees
- Native Tree Species Identification
- Importance of Forest Fires
- Tree Growth and Ring Layers
- Tree Anatomy
- Forest Wildlife
- Habitats
- Survival Adaptations

Curriculum Ties:

Grade 7:  Unit A: Interactions and Ecosystems
          Unit B: Plants for Food and Fibre
          Unit E: Planet Earth

Grade 8:  Unit B: Cells and Systems

Grade 9:  Unit A: Biological Diversity
          Unit C: Environmental Chemistry

WILDLIFE OF ALBERTA - II

Grade 7 to Grade 9 | 2 Hour Program

Discover the variety of wildlife species in Alberta and their connections to each other. Mounted specimens allow students to examine native animals and their diverse adaptations. Through an entertaining role-playing game, students have fun while learning about wildlife food webs.

Concepts Covered:

- Alberta Native Species
- Animal Adaptations and Interactions
- Predator / Prey Relationships
- Food Webs
- Human Threat
- Survival Strategies
- Habitat and Food Sources
- Ecosystems

Curriculum Ties:

Grade 7:  Unit A: Interactions and Ecosystems
          Unit E: Planet Earth

Grade 8:  Unit E: Freshwater and Saltwater Systems

Grade 9:  Unit A: Biological Diversity
CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

Grade 7 to Grade 12 | 2 Hour Program

Students will learn the importance of biodiversity in a natural ecosystem. Examine environmental issues and learn ways to help conserve nature through green living. Hands-on activities and time in the indoor showhouses are included in the program.

Concepts Covered:

- Biodiversity
- Wildlife Habitat
- Human Impacts on the Environment
- Biotic vs. Abiotic Factors
- Biological indicators
- Pond Health Testing: pH, Nitrogen, Ammonia, Phosphate
- Pond Turnover
- Specialist vs. Generalist
- Plant Adaptations
- Plant Uses for People

Curriculum Ties:

Grade 7: Unit A: Interactions and Ecosystems
- Unit B: Plants for Food and Fibre
- Unit C: Heat and Temperature
- Unit E: Planet Earth

Grade 8: Unit A: Mix and Flow of Matter
- Unit E: Freshwater and Saltwater Systems

Grade 9: Unit A: Biological Diversity
- Unit B: Matter and Chemical Change
- Unit C: Environmental Chemistry

AQUATIC / TERRESTRIAL PROGRAM

Biology 20/30 | 4 Hour Program

A study to compliment the Biology 20/30 curriculum. Students take an in-depth look at the flora and fauna of Albertan aquatic and terrestrial environments, completing many hands-on activities. Focus is on ecosystems and assessing ecosystem health through various testing techniques.

Concepts Covered:

- Biodiversity
- Biomagnification
- Biotic vs. Abiotic (Aquatic and Terrestrial)
- Natural Selection
- Succession
- Wetland Health
- Deciduous vs. Coniferous forests
- Human Effects
- Biological indicators
- Pond Health Testing: pH, Nitrogen, Ammonia, Phosphate
- Pond Turnover
- Tree Growth and Ring Layers
- Tree Identification (Dichotomous Keys)
- Soil Sampling (Abiotic Measurements)
- Coniferous vs. Deciduous forest

Curriculum Ties:

Science 10: Unit A: Energy and Matter in Chemical Change
- Unit C: Cycling of Matter in Living Systems

Science 20: Unit C: The Changing Earth
- Unit D: Changes in Living Systems

Science 30: Unit A: Living Systems Respond to their Environment

Biology 20: Unit A: Energy and Matter Exchange in the Biosphere
- Unit B: Ecosystems and Population Change
- Unit C: Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration

Biology 30: Unit D: Population and Community Dynamics

Chemistry 20: Unit C: Matter as Solutions Acids and Bases
Additional Information

PROGRAM FEES

**Students** - New! Group Rates

- Half Day (one program only, NO lunch space or unescorted time)........................................................................................................ $235/group
- Half Day with Lunch Space (one program, with lunch space and unescorted time)............................................................... $285/group
- Full Day (two programs, includes lunch space) ................................................................................................................................. $335/group
- Aquatic/Terrestrial Study ........................................................................................................................................ $390/group

**Teachers / Aides** ........................................................................................................................................................................... Free

**Volunteers**

- Pre-K to Grade 3.............................................................................................................................................................................. 1 free volunteer per 5 children
- Grade 4 to 12................................................................................................................................................................................... 1 free volunteer per 8 children

**All extra adults** ............................................................................................................................................................................. Regular admission rate applies

BOOKING POLICIES

**Group Size**

The maximum number of students allowed in a group is 30. Groups exceeding 30 students will be divided and charged an additional group rate.

**Booking Process**

- To start the booking process, you must submit an online Field Trip Booking Request [available on our website].
- A Booking Request puts you in the queue for program bookings, and will be answered in the order it is received.
- Once we receive your request, we will follow up to finalize your booking details and prepare your contract.
- Your booking is not confirmed until you have returned a signed contract and non-refundable deposit.
- We will contact you at least 1 week prior to your field trip to confirm arrangement and answer any questions you have.

**Cancellations**

- The Garden does NOT cancel field trips in inclement weather [eg. rain, snow], except in the case of severe or dangerous conditions [eg. tornado warning, extreme winds].
- The Garden is not responsible for bussing fees if program is cancelled due to severe weather.
- Changes to attendance resulting in a change to the number of groups booked must be communicated to the education department by email at least 10 business days in advance of field trip date.
- Cancellations by the school within 10 business days of field trip date, or no-shows, will be billed the entire booking amount. Deposits are non-refundable.
Field Trip FAQs

How far ahead should I book my school field trip?
Field trips fill quickly. To avoid disappointment, book early. Bookings for spring field trips start September of the previous year. Bookings for fall field trips begin in mid-January for that year.

What should my students bring?
- appropriate clothing for the weather
- appropriate footwear for spending a day outdoors, with walking
- rubber boots or old runners for wetland programs
- bagged lunch
- sunscreen and bug spray recommended during spring/summer months
We will provide you with a take-home list for your students at the time of booking.

What happens if it’s raining?
We operate our programs rain or shine. Our interpreters will do their best to keep your group engaged and having fun, but it is essential that students come dressed in weather-appropriate clothing. We will also ensure that you have a dry area to eat your lunch if you have booked a lunch space option. In the case of extreme or dangerous weather, the Garden will contact schools the morning of the field trip to reschedule (subject to availability).

What is the driving time to the Garden?
We are located in Parkland County, 5 km north of Devon on 60.
From downtown Edmonton – approx. 45 minutes
From SW Edmonton – approx. 20 minutes
From east Edmonton – approx. 30-45 minutes

If you want a good estimation of travel time, look for our location on Google Maps (University of Alberta Botanic Garden, 51227 AB-60, Spruce Grove, T7Y 1C5)

Will we have somewhere to eat our lunch?
If you have a full-day or half-day with lunch booking, you will have a spot reserved for your group to have lunch. If you book a half-day program without lunch, there will be no space reserved for your group.

Do my students need to bring a lunch?
Yes, students and staff must bring their own bagged lunch and water bottle. Microwaves are not available.

Do you offer discounted rates to schools/organizations with limited funding?
A limited number of bursaries are available from the Friends of the Garden. Please contact the Education department for more information.
The University of Alberta Botanic Garden (formerly the Devonian Botanic Garden) is a stunning 97 hectare (240-acre) property located in Parkland County, 15 minutes southwest of Edmonton.

The U of A Botanic Garden, established in 1959, is an award-winning visitor attraction, a research site, and home to year-round adult and children’s education programming.

In addition to many garden areas, features include:
- Extensive natural forests and wetlands
- Aga Khan Garden, Indigenous Garden, Kurimoto Japanese Garden
- Indoor showhouses and tropical butterflies