

Tampa Bay Area Environmental Education Programs

Field Trips

[15th Street Farm](#) St. Petersburg

Nonprofit urban organic farm that facilitates learning and community building around healthy food from soil to fork.

[Boyd Hill Nature Preserve](#) St. Petersburg

Nature preserve operated by St. Petersburg Parks & Recreation; spans 400 acres and connects to Lake Maggiore. 90-minute field trips for grades K-12 provide an opportunity to observe and study plants and animals in their natural habitat. See website for topics.

[Brooker Creek Preserve](#) Tarpon Springs

Largest natural area in Pinellas County, consisting primarily of forested wetlands and pine flatwoods. Field trips are offered by [Sensing Nature](#), including Nature Hikes, Wildlife Viewing, Flora & Fauna Adaptations, Owl Pellet Dissections, Tracks, Scats & Signs, Human Influence on Ecosystems, Education Center Tours.

[Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center](#) Ruskin

Camp Bayou offers a canoe launch, visitor's center, nature center, trails, and butterfly habitat. Field trips explore nature topics to help understand and appreciate Florida's outdoor beauty and biodiversity. Program runs from 10am-11:30am for 30 children or less on Thursdays and Fridays.

[Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#) Clearwater

[Field trips](#) are self-guided with the option to add on a Biologist-led Guided Tour, Marine Biology Scavenger Hunt, or Biologist-Led Classroom Programs. Several [outreach programs](#) are offered where a CMA biologist comes to your school. There are also Biologist-Led Boat Programs and Real-Time Virtual Field Trips.

[Crystal Springs Foundation](#) Crystal Springs

Private, 530-acre nature preserve featuring Crystal Springs, a second magnitude spring system. Field trips for grades 3-5 include a hike that encourages strong observation skills through our amazing habitats and a visit to our spring-fed pool to learn about where this precious resource comes from. Middle school programs are designed to get students physically in touch with nature through hands on activities and outdoor learning experiences. High school programs allow students to participate in data collection, analysis, and experimentation.

[Fat Beet Farms](#) Tampa

Fat Beet Farm is a coastal farm dedicated to sustainability, education, and restoring the farm-to-fork connection. Our field trips offer students an immersive experience learning where their food comes from. We tailor every field trip to the ages and educational experience of each class. From the compost scraps to the veggies in the garden, students will learn everything that goes into growing food on a farm. Plus, we'll have lots of fun along the way!

[Florida Botanical Gardens](#) Largo

The Majeed Discovery Garden is an accessible children's garden, located inside the Florida Botanical Gardens – a public, Pinellas County park. The garden is a place for hands-on and experiential education in an outdoor setting, with a goal to connect children of all ages and abilities to nature. Field trips are correlated to Florida State Science Standards for all ages, and lesson plans are available for all grades.

[Florida Learning Garden/Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#) Tampa

The Florida Learning Garden, a collaborative project between Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful and the Florida State Fair Authority, is a dynamic one-acre interactive educational experience. This display garden showcases a variety of innovative features, including raised beds, hydroponics, hugelkultur beds, a Florida-Friendly Walking Trail, rain gardens, and over 75 species of trees. Visitors can explore an interactive greenhouse, the Hard Rock Educational Pavilion for presentations, sensory gardens, butterfly gardens, upcycled gardens, a composting system, a gazebo, and the iconic Windmill.

[Florida Aquarium](#) Tampa

[Field trips](#) are self-guided with the option to add on a [classroom education program or lab](#) on a variety of topics. The [Water Wheels Outreach Program](#) offers visits to your school by an Aquarium instructor and often an animal ambassador. Sessions are 30 – 60 minutes in length and are available in terrestrial or marine themes.

[Manatee Viewing Center](#) Apollo Beach

Operated by TECO, the MVC offers self-guided field trips including a tidal walk overlooking the warm-water area where manatees gather, an education center, coastal habitat trail, wildlife observation tower, and TECO Clean Energy Center.

[Rosebud Continuum](#) Land O' Lakes

[Field trips](#) on sustainable innovation and sustainable living, regenerative agriculture, renewable energy, recycling, and more. Select up to 3 focus areas from the menu of sustainability demonstrations: Aquaponics Systems, Native Trail & Microforest Conservation, Solar & Renewable Energy, Advanced Gardening Techniques, Indigenous Knowledge, Glass & Plastic Recycling.

[Seaside Seabird Sanctuary](#) Indian Shores

Located on 1.5 acres of beachfront property, the sanctuary is home to nearly 100 permanently disabled birds and a new Environmental Education Center featuring Florida's native marine and estuarine environment. [Field trips](#) include a guided tour of the facility, an environmental science activity, and the option for a meal/snack break on our observation deck.

[Sensing Nature](#) Multiple Locations

In partnership with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN) and Pinellas County's UF/IFAS Extension, Sensing Nature provides educational field trips at Brooker Creek Preserve, Weedon Island Preserve, and Fort DeSoto Park in Pinellas County.

[Suncoast Youth Conservation Center](#) Apollo Beach

6,000 square foot facility situated on 20 acres of wetland habitat known as the Center for Conservation campus; includes indoor & outdoor classrooms, fishing pier, mangrove trails; adjacent to the TECO Manatee Viewing Center. Free, 4-hour field trips for grades 3 – 8, including mangrove kayak tours and fishing clinics.

[Sweetwater Organic Farm](#) Tampa

[Field trips](#) to Sweetwater include an educational tour of our farm where students rotate through different interactive stations led by Sweetwater educators and trained volunteers. Students have an opportunity to investigate our compost area, greenhouse, water well, chicken coop, native trail, pollinator station and herb garden.

[Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation](#) Tampa

Nature center includes a native butterfly botanical garden, bug zoo, native & exotic reptiles, amphibians, and turtles. [Field trips](#) include an educational presentation on insects with a focus on butterflies. Participants will also see the complete living life cycle of the butterflies for 10-15 species of butterflies. After the presentation on insects, students will work in teams to participate in a bug hunt in the backyard of our nursery to find the bugs from the presentation. Completing a related art project is optional.

[Tampa Bay Watch Auer Marine Education Center](#) Tierra Verde

Our state-of-the-art facility offers a variety of field trip options designed to engage students in hands-on marine science experiences. Choose from or combine our interactive classroom labs, exciting boat-based programs, or seasonal water-based programs.

[Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center](#) St. Petersburg

Located on the beautiful St. Pete Pier, our state-of-the-art facility offers a variety of field trip options designed to engage students in hands-on marine science experiences. Choose from or combine our interactive classroom labs, exciting boat-based programs, or seasonal water-based programs.

[Weedon Island Preserve](#) St. Petersburg

Field trips are offered by [Sensing Nature](#), including Mangrove Boardwalk Hikes, Seining & Dip Netting, Fishing, Canoeing, Social Responsibility & Conservation , Cultural Center Tours

[ZooTampa](#) Tampa

Field trips are self-guided with the option of adding the Zoo Quest Activity Pack, an exciting new resource to make your field trip fun, easy, and educational! It was designed at the request of the Hillsborough County School District and includes self-guided activities for students that meet Florida state science standards and information for chaperones to lead the activities and discussions throughout the Zoo.

Outreach Programs

[Breach the Surface](#)

[Clearwater Audubon Society](#)

[Florida Aquarium](#)

[Keep Pinellas Beautiful](#)

[Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#)

[Marine Exploration Center](#)

[Ocean Rescue Alliance](#)

[Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife](#)

[Raptor Center of Tampa Bay](#)

[Seaside Seabird Sanctuary](#)

[Sea Turtle Trackers](#)

[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)

[Tampa Audubon Society](#)

[Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation](#)

[Tampa Bay Watch](#)

[Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center](#)

[Water Warrior Alliance](#)

Volunteer Service Opportunities (habitat & shoreline restorations, clean-ups, plantings, etc.)

[Coastal Crusaders](#) Madeira Beach

[EcoSphere Restoration Institute](#)

[Ideas for Us](#) St. Petersburg

[Keep Pasco Beautiful](#) Pasco County

[Keep Pinellas Beautiful](#) Pinellas County

[Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#) Hillsborough County

[Oyster River Ecology](#)

[Take MAR - More Action for Regeneration](#) St. Petersburg

[Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation](#) Tampa

[Tampa Bay Watch](#) St. Petersburg

[Tampa Bay Waterkeeper](#)

[Water Warrior Alliance](#) St. Petersburg

Other State & Local Resources

[Blue-Green Connections/Florida Gulf Coast Hope Spot](#)

[Florida Wildlife Corridor](#)

[Ocean Conservancy](#)

[Tampa Bay Estuary Program](#)

[Tampa Bay Monarch Project](#)