Field Trips to Boyce Thompson Arboretum are fun, hands-on, immersive experiences. Students’ adventures on the trails are full of discovery and connection.

Each field trip helps students increase their science inquiry skills and is tied to Arizona State Science Standards.

Situated on 343 acres of scenic upland Sonoran Desert with nearly five miles of trails, BTA is Arizona’s oldest and largest botanical garden.
SUPER SENSES | KINDERGARTEN

Plants and animals use more than their eyes to learn and survive in nature. During this field trip students will discover animal super senses as they explore the Arboretum.

TOPICS: LIVING, NON-LIVING, SENSES, RESPOND, ENVIRONMENT, OBSERVE

LIFECYCLE LOOPS | 1ST

Students hit the trail to explore the life cycles of plants and animals. Through games, role playing and guided investigations students will uncover the similarities and differences between the lifecycle of plants, insects and other animals.

TOPICS: LIFECYCLE, OBSERVATION, STABILITY AND CHANGE, MODELS, CHARACTERISTICS, STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT
HOME SWEET HOME  
1ST - 6TH

Students become habitat investigators in search of a suitable home for a specific plant. As they gather and evaluate data, they find out how local plants and wildlife use natural resources to meet their survival needs.

TOPICS: HABITAT, ECOSYSTEM, ADAPTATION, OBSERVATION, RESOURCES, FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, BIOTIC (LIVING), ABIOTIC (NON-LIVING)

WHAT’S FOR DINNER?  
2ND-6TH

Students explore the concepts of food chains and webs as they observe and investigate the plants and animals in the Arboretum. Gathering evidence from skulls and scat they try to uncover what our mystery animal eats and where it fits in the food chain.

TOPICS: FOOD CHAIN, FOOD WEB, PRODUCER, CONSUMER, DECOMPOSER, CARNIVORE, OMNIVORE, HERBIVORE, DETRITIVORE, ADAPTATIONS, ENERGY, PREDATIONS, COMPETITION, PHOTOSYNTHESIS
AWESOME ADAPTATIONS 3RD-6TH

Students explore the structural adaptations of plants that help them survive. Looking closely, they will compare and contrast plants in different habitats to determine similarities and differences in adaptations of seeds, roots, and leaf structures. In the end they will try their hand at designing, building and testing out their own seed dispersal mechanism.

TOPICS: ADAPTATIONS, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION, HABITAT, MODELS, PHOTOSYNTHESIS.

EARTH ROCKS 2ND-4TH

Every rock tells a story! Students will learn how to “read” rocks as they gather evidence to construct the story of how the current landforms came to be. Using erosion tables students will investigate the effects water has on the land.

TOPICS: WEATHERING, EROSION, METAMORPHIC, SEDIMENTARY, IGNEOUS, ROCK CYCLE, LANDFORMS, GEOLOGY
SCHEDULING

- Offered Tuesday through Friday, October 25th– April 29th
- Start times of 9, 9:30 or 10
- Field trips are generally 2 hours long. Kindergarten is 90 minutes.
- Must be booked 3 weeks in advance

LUNCH

Boyce Thompson Arboretum has a picnic area where your group can eat lunch before you head back to school.