



GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

2025-2026

GRADES 2-12



LOCATIONS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 HARRELL FAMILY GREENHOUSE | 4 RUTHVEN FAMILY PLAYGROUND |
| 2 ZOEY'S BUTTERFLY HOUSE | 5 KIWANIS CARES FOR KIDS TREEHOUSE |
| 3 GIVEWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NATURE CENTER | 6 BLANTON FAMILY LAGOON |

SCAN FOR
DIGITAL MAP!



HISTORY OF THE PARK

The CSX railyard, once a major hub that put Lakeland on the industrial map, relocated in the 1980s and left a large derelict space near the heart of our city. Sitting dormant for decades, it had long been time for the 168 acres near downtown to be repurposed and revitalized. Local visionaries and philanthropists began to plan for an incredible green space that would bring residents closer to nature and provide educational and entertainment experiences.

Groundbreaking for the park took place in March 2020. After years of dedication and labor, BSP held its Grand Opening Celebration on October 22 & 23, 2022. The resulting urban park with free admission spans from the intersection of George Jenkins Boulevard and Kathleen Road to the eastern shore of Lake Bonnet.

As a non-profit, the park is largely dependent on endowment, perpetual care funds, and the help of hundreds of volunteers.

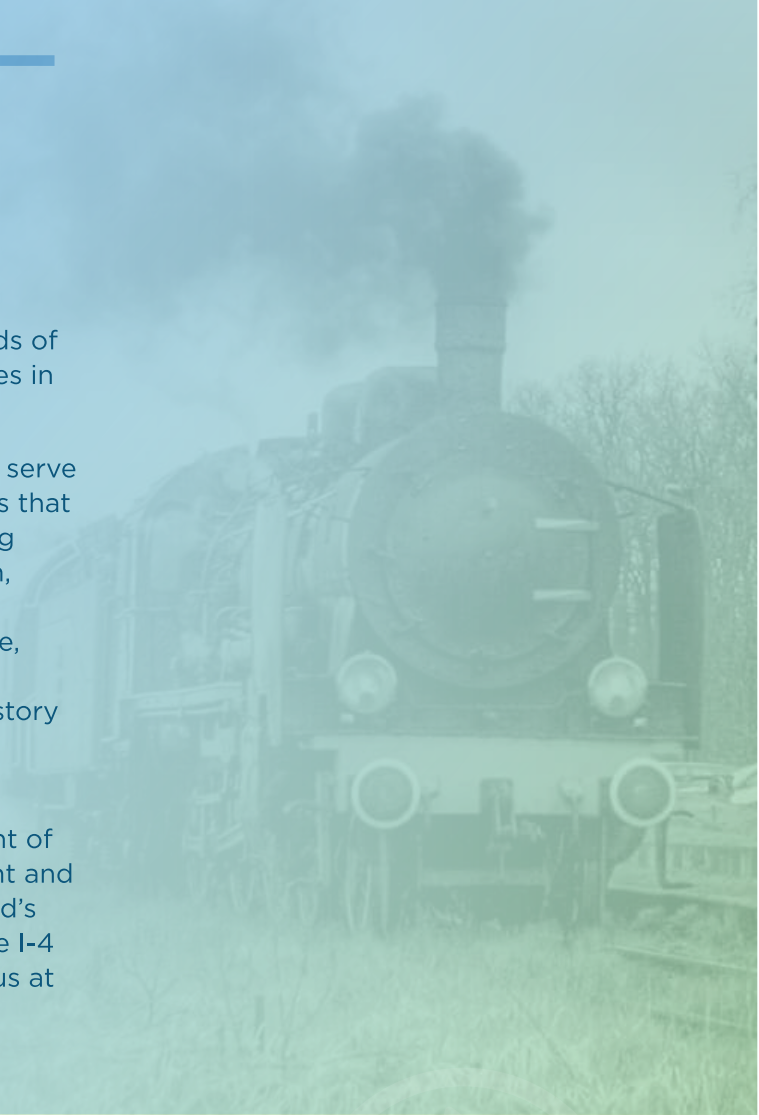
The once essential railyard left a deep environmental footprint. Today, thanks to extensive restoration efforts, BSP is poised to provide opportunities that will spark an ecological renaissance in our community.

MISSION AND VISION

The mission of Bonnet Springs Park is to enrich our community through nature, culture, recreation, and education. Our park serves to unify the city's diverse population, offering public spaces that serve the needs of many by providing engaging and diverse opportunities in education and recreation to residents and visitors.

Great parks compliment the personality of a city, and serve to unify its diverse populations, offering public spaces that serve the needs of many. BSP is a place within walking distance to our city's urban core where art, recreation, fun, and tranquility intersect by design. This blended urban/natural park provides spaces to escape, engage, and explore with one another and with nature while experiencing and learning about the extraordinary history of Central Florida.

The uniqueness of this location enables a needed connection from downtown to the northwest quadrant of Lakeland, while promoting the economic development and expansion of the downtown area. Even more, Lakeland's strategic position between Tampa and Orlando on the I-4 corridor makes BSP accessible to many guests. Visit us at Florida's Best Free Natural Attraction!



escape. engage. explore.



Guided Field Trip

Logistics



Eligibility

For the 2025-2026 school year, guided field trips at BSP are open to the following groups:

Grade Levels: 2nd-12th

Guided field trips are designed for one specific grade level, not for mixed-grade groups

Group Types: public, charter, and private schools within Central Florida

Group Size: Groups must have a minimum of 15 students and a maximum of 50 students per day

Schedule

Every guided field trip to Bonnet Springs Park is tailored to your student's grade level and Florida state standards. While each grade will experience different activities and learning opportunities, the following schedule will be followed regardless of grade:

- **9:30AM - 9:45AM**
Bus Arrival & Welcome
- **9:45AM - 12:15PM**
Activities & Lunch
- **12:15PM - 12:30PM**
Farewell & Bus Departure

Does your group plan to stay at BSP beyond 12:15PM? Groups are welcome to remain in the park independently within park operating hours.

Reservation Process

Field trip reservations can be made directly through the Bonnet Springs Park website. Teachers should have the following information prepared when making your reservation:

- ✓ **Preferred field trip date** (Available days are Monday - Friday starting September 2, 2025)
- ✓ **School Name**
- ✓ **Grade Level**
- ✓ **Number of Students**
(Must be between 15-50 students per day)
 - If your group has more than 50 students, please make multiple reservations across several days to accommodate your entire group
- ✓ **Number of Chaperones**
 - BSP requires a minimum of one adult for every 10 students in your reservation
- ✓ **Day-Of Contact Name & Cell Phone**
 - This person must be attending the field trip with your group
- ✓ **Transportation Type**
 - School bus, charter bus, personal vehicles, etc.
 - Guided field trip reserved parking is limited to one large school/charter bus per day
- ✓ **Lunch Type**
 - Bring your own, boxed lunch order, pizza order

Guided Field Trip Logistics

Lunch

Students need plenty of energy to enjoy their field trip. To give everyone the fuel they need to have a great field trip, schedules include time for your group to eat lunch. When making your reservation, choose the option that works best for your group:

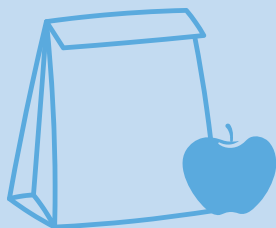
OPTION 1

Bring Your Own Lunch

Groups who would like to bring lunch from school are welcome to do so. BSP staff will transport your lunch supplies from your bus to your designated lunch location. Supplies will be transported back to your bus at the end of your field trip. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Meals should be organized in coolers and/or storage bins with a lid. This will help our team keep things organized and also prevent weather/wildlife from accessing your lunch.**

– Please label coolers/bins with teacher names if you are visiting with multiple classes.



OPTION 2

BSP Pizza

Groups who would like to order pizza from the BSP Depot can do so directly through your field trip reservation. Schools that choose to order pizza will be expected to provide their own cooler of drinks.

- **16" large pizza**
- **Can be cut into 8 slices or 12 slices**
- **Cheese or pepperoni**
- **Plates and napkins included**

Cheese pizzas cost \$14 + tax and pepperoni pizzas cost \$15 + tax. Lunch invoices must be paid a week in advance.



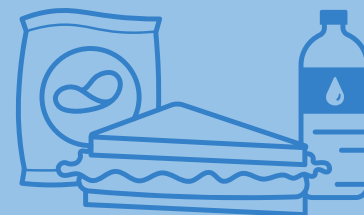
OPTION 3

BSP Boxed Lunch

Groups who would prefer to purchase individual boxed lunches can do so directly through your field trip reservation. Our on-property café offers the following choices for each student:

- **Entrée choice:** ham & cheese sandwich, turkey & cheese wrap
- **House-made potato chips**
- **Cookie**
- **Small water bottle**

Boxed lunches cost \$6 + tax each. Lunch invoices must be paid a week in advance.



Guided Field Trip Topics (2nd–8th)



2nd Grade | Metamorphosis

Explore the wonders of metamorphosis at Bonnet Springs Park! Students will have the opportunity to explore stages of the life cycles of plants and animals that live at BSP!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.2.L.16.1

3rd Grade | Plant Structures

Explore the structures of plants at Bonnet Springs Park! Students will investigate how the roles of each part of the plant are essential to the plant's growth and development. Learn directly from BSP's horticulture team during this field trip.

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.3.L.14.1, SC.3.L.14.2, SC.3.L.17.1

4th Grade | Life of Trees

Explore the life cycle of trees at BSP! Students will have the opportunity to explore the stages of a tree's life cycle, investigate how these amazing plants impact the environment around them, and learn how the environment can impact trees. The highlight of this trip includes an opportunity to see forestry tools firsthand!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.4.L.16.2, SC.4.L.16.2, SC.4.L.17.4

5th Grade | Energy, Energy Everywhere

Energy is all around you! Students will investigate forms of energy at Bonnet Springs Park and how to create change.

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.5.P.10.1, SC.5.P.10.2

6th Grade | Cells & Classifications

How often do people see life at the microscopic level? Students will learn more about living organisms through the lens of a microscope, all the way to their overall classification in the living environment. The highlights of this trip include an opportunity to see different organisms through the lens of a microscope and create a drawing to take home!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.6.L.14.4, SC.6.L.15.1

7th Grade | Animals & Energy

Investigate how energy flows within an ecosystem and the relationship that exists between living organisms. Students will experience a variety of activities that support their understanding of energy transfer within an ecosystem. The highlight of this trip includes an opportunity to dissect an owl pellet while learning what these creatures eat to obtain their energy!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.7.L.17.1, SC.7.L.17.2

8th Grade | Technology in Action

Increase your technical know-how through demonstrations and hands-on exploration! Students will explore the innovations behind an operational greenhouse and interact with a variety of modern technology. The highlight of this field trip includes an opportunity to use a modern solar telescope to view the sun during your visit (weather dependent)!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.8.E.5.10

Guided Field Trip Topics **High School**



Biology | Life Aquatic

Dive into aquatic ecosystems at Bonnet Springs Park! Each student will use modern technology to investigate the distribution of life in aquatic systems. The highlight of this field trip includes dip netting at the Blanton Family Lagoon.

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.912.L.17.9, SC.912.L.17.2

Chemistry | Chemical & Physical

Change is all around! Students will complete activities to investigate the differences between physical and chemical changes that take place at Bonnet Springs Park!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.912.P.8.2, SC.912.P.8.10

Environmental Science | Florida Features

Florida is known for its various natural habitats, from wetlands to springs. Students will explore the environmental impacts of wetlands and connect it to current environmental principles through several different activities. The highlight of this field trip includes a hands-on wetland stimulation!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.912.E.6.4, SC.912.L.17.7, SC.912.L.17.8, SC.912.L.17.16

Physics | Energy Transformation

See physics in action here at Bonnet Springs Park! Students will work collaboratively in several activities to explore the concepts of sound, light, and the connection between energy and work. The highlight of this field trip includes an opportunity to use the BSP Barnett Sound Garden to make music with the help of several different physics principles!

ALIGNED STANDARDS:

Science SC.912.P.10.1, SC.912.P.10.14, SC.912.P.10.20

Field Trip FAQs

What days are guided field trips available?

Guided field trips are available for reservation on Monday-Friday during the 2025-2026 school year, starting on September 2, 2025.

How early should I book a guided field trip?

Guided field trips are booked on a first-reserved, first-served basis. We encourage you to reserve your guided field trip as early as possible.

How do I know my field trip is booked?

Once you have submitted a guided field trip reservation, you will receive a confirmation email. Your field trip is not booked unless you have a confirmation email.

How many students can I bring?

Guided field trips are limited to 50 students per day.

Is there a cost to attend BSP field trips?

No! Guided field trips reserved through our Programming Department are at no cost to educational groups.

What should students wear during a BSP field trip?

Groups are encouraged to adhere to your school's dress code. In addition, we ask that students wear closed-toes shoes that support outdoor walking for several hours and dress appropriately for seasonal weather. Sun protection such as hats and/or sunblock is always recommended!

What happens if it rains during my field trip?

As a 168-acre nature park, there is always the chance that weather will impact your visit. As needed, field trip guides will supply your group with disposable ponchos and seek shelter in the event of lightning within 10 miles. BSP reserves the right to cancel guided field trips in the event of severe weather that requires the park to close.

What are the expectations of chaperones?

BSP is a "play at your own risk" park. BSP is not responsible for injuries that occur on the park's property. Chaperones are expected to provide direct supervision during the entirety of your guided field trip and ensure your student's safety. There is inherent risk to climbing on rocks, logs, ladders, and all other play elements within the park. If you have questions about a particular activity, please ask your Field Trip Guide for clarification.

Questions? Contact fieldtrips@bonnetspringspark.com

