



# SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

2025-2026

# GRADES K-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.

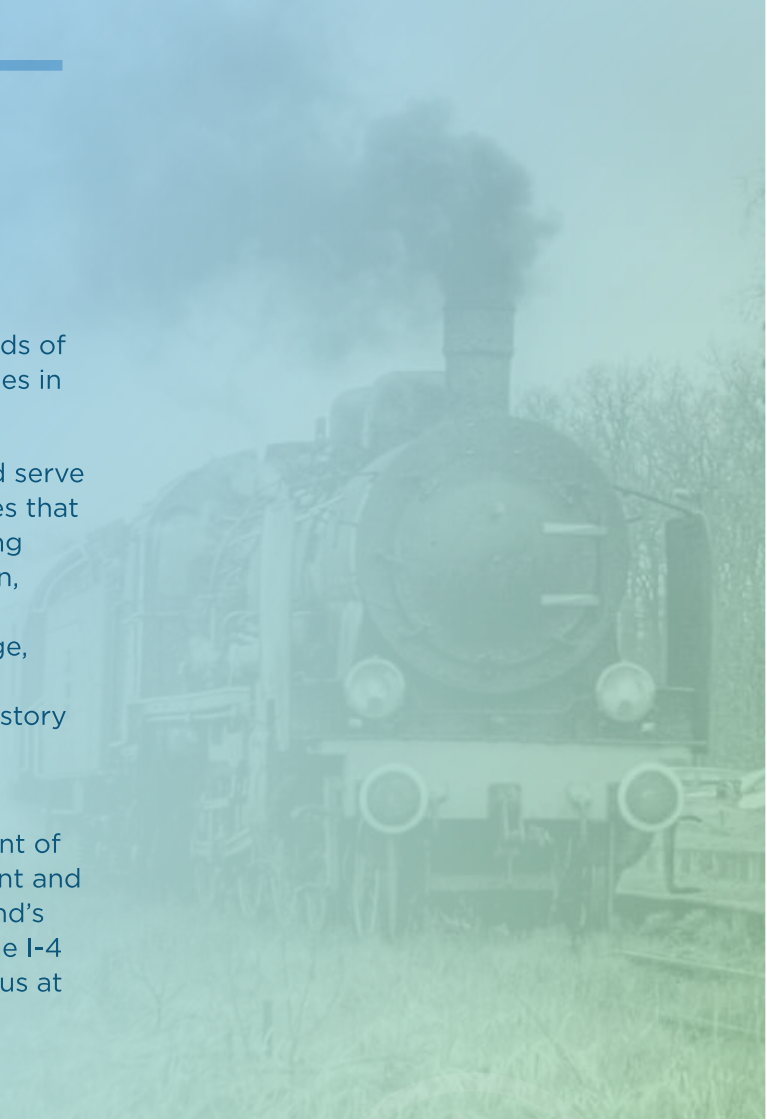
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## MISSION AND VISION

**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.



# Self-Guided Field Trip

## Logistics

### Eligibility

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

**Grade Levels:** K-12th

**Self-guided field trips** are an excellent choice for mixed-grade groups, or groups with only one grade level

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

**Group Size:** Groups must have a minimum of 15 students and a maximum of 100 students per day

### Schedule

Every self-guided field trip to BSP is tailored to your student's abilities and Florida state standards. While each self-guided field trip contains unique activities and learning opportunities, the following schedule will be followed regardless of grade:

- **9:30AM - 9:45AM**  
Bus Arrival & Welcome
- **9:45AM - 12:15PM**  
Self-Guided Activities
- **12:15PM - 12:30PM**  
Suggested Bus Departure

Does your group plan to stay at BSP beyond 12:15PM? Groups are welcome to remain in the park independently, with the understanding that your transportation may require that you return to school by a designated time.

### Reservation Process

Field trip reservations can be made directly through the BSP website. Educators should have the following information prepared when making your reservation:

- ✓ **Preferred field trip date** (Available days are Monday - Friday starting September 2, 2025)
- ✓ **School/Organization Name**
- ✓ **Link to school/organization website**
- ✓ **Preferred field trip topic**
- ✓ **Number of Students**  
(Must be between 15-100 students per day)
  - If your group has more than 100 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.
  - Self-Guided Field Trip reserved parking is limited to two large school/charter buses per day

# Self-Guided Field Trip Logistics

## Lunch

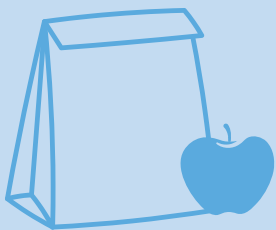
Students need plenty of energy to enjoy their field trip. To give everyone the fuel they need to have a great field trip, schedules include time for your group to eat lunch. When making your reservation, choose the option that works best for your group:

### OPTION 1

#### Bringing Your Own Lunch

Groups who would like to bring lunch from school are welcome to do so. Self-Guided field trip groups are responsible for their belongings, including lunch, at all times during your trip.

- We recommend that meals are organized in coolers and/or storage bins and left on the bus until lunchtime or students carry individual lunches throughout the day.



### 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.



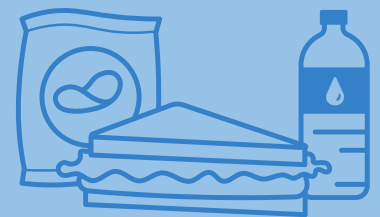
### OPTION 3

#### 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.



# Self-Guided Field Trip Topics (K-5th)

**BONNET SPRINGS PARK WILL PROVIDE ACTIVITY MATERIALS UPON ARRIVAL**

## K-2nd Grade | Five Senses

BSP has endless opportunities for students to use their senses: hearing, sight, touch, taste, and smell. Students will have the ability to practice these lifelong skills through a variety of fun activities. The highlight of this field trip includes a five senses scavenger hunt perfect for little learners!

### **ALIGNED STANDARDS:**

**Kindergarten** SC.K.L.14.1, SC.K.L.14.3, SC.L.P.8.1, SC.L.N.1.2, SC.K.N.1.5

**1st Grade** SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.P.8.1, SC.1.P.12.1, SC.1.E.5.3, SC.1.E.6.1, SC.1.N.1.2

**2nd Grade** SC.2.L.17.2, SC.2.P.8.1, SC.2.P.13.1, SC.2.E.7.1, SC.2.N.1.1, SC.2.N.1.5

## K-2nd Grade | Nature Narrator

Stories often capture big concepts and support learning components in an engaging way! Activities in this self-guided field trip connect to a variety of fun storybooks that can be read together during your visit. The highlight of this field trip includes several simple-supply activities for teachers to bring stories to life at BSP! BSP is happy to provide five copies of the following storybooks to be borrowed during this self-guided field trip: “The Hike” by Alison Farrell, and “What’s That, Muskrat?” by Barbara Cotter Smith.

### **ALIGNED STANDARDS:**

**Kindergarten** SC.K.L.14.2, SC.K.L.14.3, SC.K.P.9.1

**1st Grade** SC.1.L.14.2, SC.1.L.17.1

**2nd Grade** SC.2.L.16.1, SC.2.N.1.1

## 3rd-5th | Nature’s Power

Energy is all around you! Students will investigate the transformation of energy by conducting a variety of hands-on activities utilizing water, air, and light at Bonnet Springs Park.

### **ALIGNED STANDARDS:**

**3rd Grade** SC.3.P.10.2, SC.3.E.5.4, SC.3.L.17.2

**4th Grade** SC.4.L.17.2, SC.4.L.17.3, SC.4.P.10.2, SC.4.P.10.4

**5th Grade** SC.5.P.10.2, SC.5.P.13.1, SC.5.P.13.2, SC.5.P.13.3

## 3rd-5th | Plants & Animals

Plants and animals are essential to our ecosystems and environment. In this self-guided field trip, students will explore Bonnet Springs Park’s essential organisms that make the park beautiful!

### **ALIGNED STANDARDS:**

**3rd Grade** SC.3.L.14.1

**4th Grade** SC.4.L.16.1, SC.4.L.16.4

**5th Grade** SC.5.L.14.2, SC.5.L.17.1

# Self-Guided Field Trip Topics (6th–12th)

## 6th–8th Grade | Investigate This

Work together to solve a variety of BSP mysteries! Students will work together to learn and unravel a series of fun puzzles, mysteries, and challenges that incorporate a variety of science topics and unique features of BSP. The highlight of this field trip includes an escape room game perfect for middle school learners!

### ALIGNED STANDARDS:

**6th Grade** SC.6.L.15.1

**7th Grade** SC.7.L.17.1, SC.7.P.11.2, SC.7.E.6.6

**8th Grade** SC.8.P.8.4, SC.8.P.9.2, SC.8.N.1.1, SC.8.N.1.3

## 6th–8th Grade | Pollinator Party

The phrase “party animal” comes to life every day at BSP. Students will learn more about the life of pollinators and all of the ways they improve the world around us. The highlight of this field trip includes a lesson that incorporates exploration in Zoey’s Butterfly House to see pollinators in action!

### ALIGNED STANDARDS:

**6th Grade** SC.6.L.15.1

**7th Grade** SC.7.L.17.1, SC.7.L.17.3, SC.7.N.1.1

**8th Grade** SC. 8.L.18.1, SC.8.N.1.1, SC.8.N.4.1

## 9th–12th Grade | Art of Nature

Artistic expression helps individuals communicate their experiences and passions. Students will participate in a variety of activities that explore their connection to nature through art. The highlight of this field trip includes opportunities for students to spend time on the Crenshaw Canopy Walk and create a short story of what it would be like to live up in the trees!

### ALIGNED STANDARDS:

**Science** SC.912.N.1.7, SC.912.L.17.20, SC.912.N.3.5

**Language Arts** ELA.9.C.1.2

**Other** VA.912.C.1.1

## 9th–12th Grade | Ecosystem Explorer

Scientific explorers come from a variety of backgrounds and seek to further our understanding of many different concepts. Students will spend the morning exploring various ecosystems found within the 168 acre park and put their observation skills to the test. The highlight of this field trip includes a chance to explore the GiveWell Community Foundation Nature Center to learn about the plants and animals who call BSP their home!

### ALIGNED STANDARDS:

**Science** SC.912.L.14.7, SC.912.L.17.7, SC.912.L.17.15

# Self-Guided Field Trip FAQs

## What days are self-guided field trips available?

Self-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 self-guided field trip?

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

## How do I know my field trip is booked?

Once you have submitted a self-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?

Self-guided field trips have a minimum of 15 students and a maximum of 100 students per day.

## Is there a cost to attend BSP field trips?

No! Self-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 should we do if our group wants to bring lunch?

If your group chooses to bring your own lunch, self-guided field trip groups are responsible for their belongings, including lunch, at all times during your trip. We recommend that you leave large coolers on your bus or have students carry individual lunches throughout your time at BSP.

## 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. Self-guided field trips groups are encouraged to seek shelter in their bus during inclement weather and are welcome to return to campus if the weather is no longer satisfactory for your group.

## 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](mailto:fieldtrips@bonnetspringspark.com)

