



Explorer School Program Scholarship Information

Through the generosity of numerous donors, Olbrich Botanical Gardens is pleased to offer scholarships for the *Explorer School Program* to grades K-5 classrooms in Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) schools that participate in the Food & Nutrition Department's National School Lunch and School Breakfast Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program and Title I schools.



Explorer School Program Description

Schools select from scheduled *Explorer School Programs* for K-5 grades offered throughout the school year. Participating school groups benefit from engaging, hands-on learning experiences that support the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for science, environmental education, early learning, physical education, social studies, and agriculture, food, and natural resources, along with Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Science Standards, and the experiences supplement classroom curricula through ongoing communication and feedback from participating teachers. Schools select one or more of the following *Explorer School Programs*:

- **Ecology Explorer** investigates the relationship between plants and animals. Students will discover what a habitat is, as well as what it provides plants and animals, through hands-on activities.
(Grades K-5; available during October - November)
- **Forest Explorer** focuses on the unique features of forests. Students will explore characteristics of the tropical rainforest through comparing it to Wisconsin's deciduous forests.
(Grades K-5; available during February)
- **Botany Explorer** concentrates on plants and how they function. Students will discover the parts of a plant and explore various plant adaptations at hands-on, guided learning stations.
(Grades K-5; available during April-May)

Scholarship Eligibility:

Grades K-5 classrooms in Madison Metropolitan School District schools that participate in the Food & Nutrition Department's National School Lunch and School Breakfast Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program or a Title I school wide program (40% or more eligibility for either program as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction).

Scholarship Benefits & Requirements:

Eligible schools may receive *Explorer School Program* / transportation scholarship funding for a maximum of 120 students (2 program sessions of 60 students maximum each) per academic year, one bus per field trip/60 students. **If funds are available, additional students / classrooms may receive scholarship funding. Please inquire.**

Explorer School Program Registration Requirements

- A minimum of 15 students is required, 60 student maximum per *Explorer School Program* session.
 - Please be as accurate as possible when estimating your students' participation in the program. Once your school is awarded the program scholarship, we understand that your student count may fluctuate. If your student count changes from the number listed on the application, contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens as soon as possible prior to your field trip so we can adjust your program reservation.
 - Chaperone needs for each session depend on the number of students attending. This information can be found in the following chart:

Number of STUDENTS	Number of ADULTS* required
10-20	4
21-40	6
41+	8

- Failure to cancel your field trip by the registration deadline (less than two weeks prior to your visit) or failure to participate in your scheduled field trip ('no show' status) will result in a \$50 charge in the form of an invoice to your school. This could affect your school's future scholarship eligibility. In the rare event that Olbrich cancels your program session due to hazardous weather conditions, you will not be charged.

Transportation

- Scholarships provide reimbursement for up to \$130 per bus, with a limit of one bus for every 60 students attending the program. Schools are responsible for securing and reserving bus transportation for the field trip, as well as initially paying for the transportation service. The school must submit proof of the paid transportation service invoice to Olbrich Botanical Gardens for reimbursement within four weeks after program completion. Submit proof of paid transportation service to achristian@cityofmadison.com.
- A minimum of 30 people (students and adults), a maximum of 60 students plus adults (1 bus) is required for transportation reimbursement as part of the scholarship award. Failure to have at least 30 people (students and adults) with you on the day of your field trip will result in your ineligibility of transportation reimbursement.



To Apply:

- Complete and submit the application form to achristian@cityofmadison.com, by the required deadline. **Submissions after the deadline will be considered given the current public health conditions. No cover letter is required.** You can also fax your application to Kim North at 608-246-4719.

Program:	Application Deadline:
<i>Ecology Explorer School Program</i>	September 15, 2023
<i>Forest Explorer School Program</i>	January 19, 2024
<i>Botany Explorer School Program</i>	March 22, 2024

Questions? Contact:

Ariel Christian

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