

Eco Explorers: Botany
Instructors: Deneen Cienfuegos and Rachel Ameche

Get ready to explore the wild and wonderful world of ecology! In session 3, we will explore the ecology of flowering plants. Topics will cover how plants function, evolve, and adapt to their environment. Students will learn the structure and function of flowers, how flowers develop into fruits and seeds, and why flowering timing is critical for plant and pollinator survival. We'll investigate local native plants used for medicine and cooking and make simple herbal salves. The class also examines current threats to flowering plants and how human choices can help protect them. Through outdoor exploration and creative projects, students will build a deeper connection to the plant life around them.

Class Expectations: This class will involve outside exploration and nature journaling as well as classroom learning and activities. Students should come to class prepared with their nature journal, outside appropriate clothing and be ready to participate in discussion and activities.

Grades will be based 50% on participation and 50% on completed work.

*Please note, off campus field trip planned for Week 5 - February 12.

*Lessons subject to change

Week 1 - Introduction to Botany

Week 2 - Flower anatomy and dissection

Week 3 - Pollination

Week 4 - Seeds

*Week 5 - Field Trip Armstrong Gardens

Week 6 - Flowers and how they fulfill their basic needs

Week 7 - Fruit

Week 8 - Flowers and how they adapt for protection

Week 9 - Practical applications for flowers, fruits, seeds and plants.