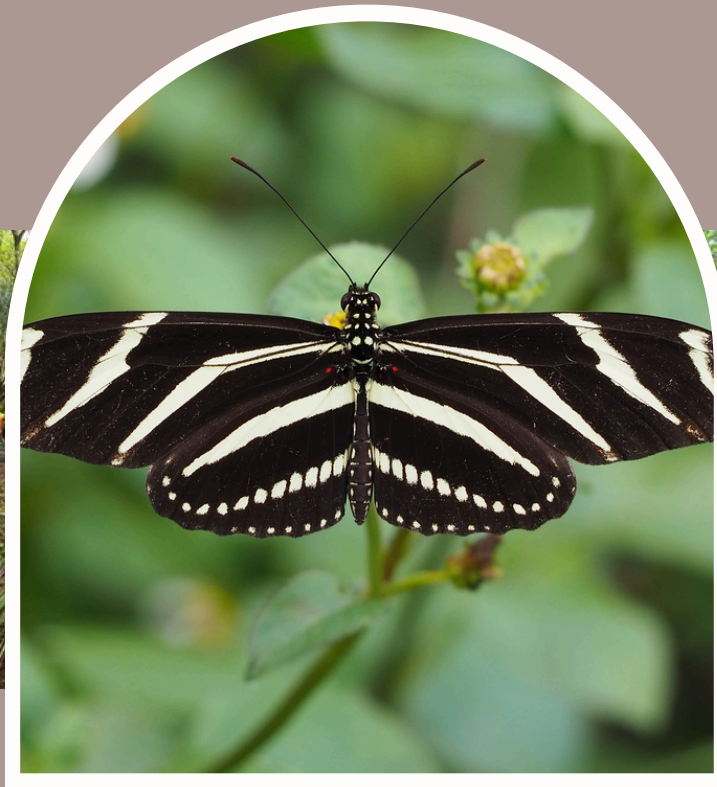




Fieldtrip and Outreach Guide 2026 - 2027



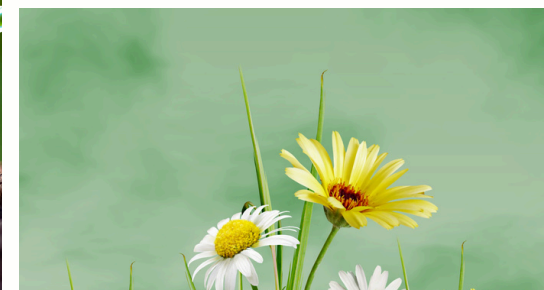
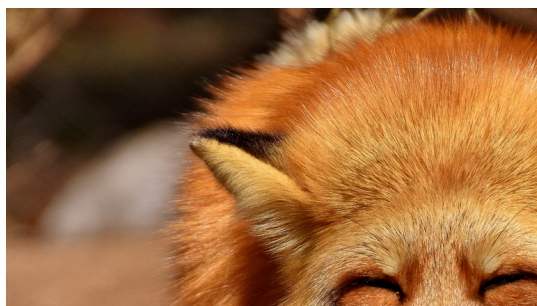
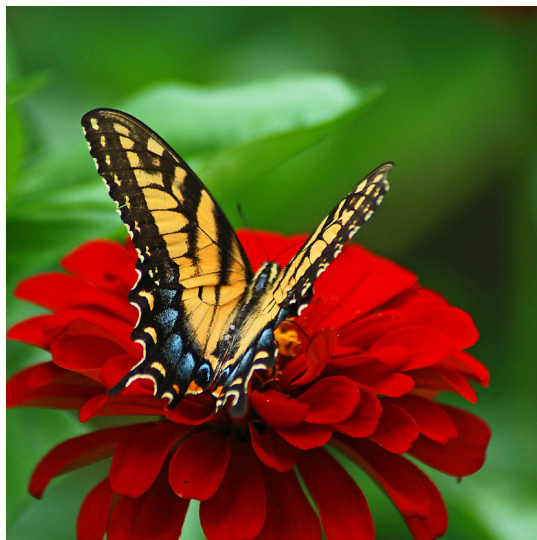
A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center and Matheson Hammock Park

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Welcome Letter to Educators

Dear Educators,



Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We're excited to have you join Miami EcoAdventures, an engaging program delivered through Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. We look forward to supporting you and your students with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that encourage curiosity, connection, and stewardship of South Florida's natural world.

This year, we invite you and your students to explore seven exceptional destinations: A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center, Arch Creek Park (Preserve and Museum), Bill Sadowski Park and Nature Center, Castellow Hammock Preserve and Nature Center, Crandon Park, Deering Estate, and Greynolds Park. Each location offers a unique setting for discovery, featuring diverse ecosystems, local wildlife, and rich environmental learning opportunities.

Expect a blend of guided exploration, age-appropriate activities, and interactive, curriculum-aligned experiences that help students build understanding and appreciation for the environment around them. Whether your students are investigating habitats, observing native species, or learning about conservation, every program is designed to make learning memorable, and to inspire students to care for the world they live in.

We encourage you to reserve your program early for the 2026-2027 school year to secure your preferred dates. Our team is ready to help you plan an experience that best supports your classroom goals and student needs.

Here's to a great year of exploration, learning, and eco-discovery!

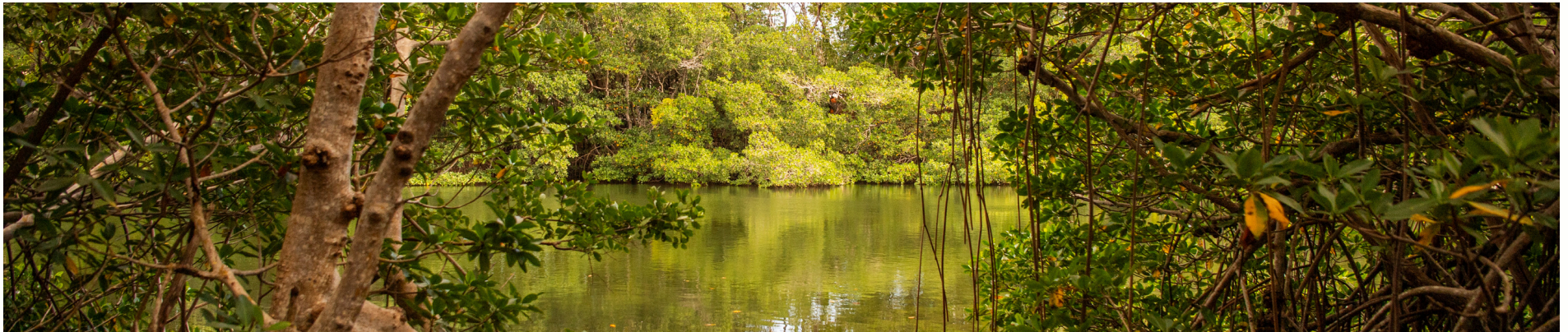
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A.D. Barnes Park and Nature Center “Urban Oasis: A Pine Rockland Adventure”

Welcome to A.D. Barnes Park — a hidden gem nestled in the heart of Miami. Explore one of the last remaining Pine Rockland habitats while discovering how nature adapts and thrives in an urban environment. This adventure is perfect for students learning about ecology, adaptation, and the importance of green spaces in cities.

- Birding 101: Discover local bird species and learn the basics of birdwatching, including how to use binoculars and identify birds by sight and sound. Recommended grade levels: 3rd - 12th Grade (F)
- Fishing for Beginners (for ages 9+ only): Learn fishing basics including casting, knot-tying, and local fish species, with a focus on responsible angling and aquatic conservation. Recommended grade levels: 3rd - 12th Grade (F) (W)
- Introduction to Archery (for ages 9+ only): Develop focus, coordination, and safety skills while learning the fundamentals of archery in a structured and supportive environment. Recommended grade levels: 4th - 12th Grade (F)
- Outdoor Skills: Learn essential outdoor survival skills—shelter, water, fire, and food—in this hands-on class for all experience levels. Practice your knowledge by setting up a mock campsite and reconnect with the fundamentals of nature. 3rd - 12th Grade (F)



Fieldtrip (F) Outreach (O) Water Based Activity (W) offered September - May Only
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Matheson Hammock Park

Welcome to Matheson Hammock Park, an inviting escape nestled in the heart of Miami. Discover how coastal and tropical habitats support thriving wildlife and connected ecosystems, even in an urban environment.

- Bay Critter Catch: Coastal Exploration: Grab a net and get ready to explore the shallow, rocky waters of Biscayne Bay. Discover marine life hiding along the shoreline!
Recommended grade levels: K - 8th Grade (F) (W)
- Kayaking 101 (for ages 9+ only): Gain hands-on experience paddling a kayak while learning water safety and exploring local waterways and ecosystems.
Recommended grade levels: 4th - 12th Grade (F)(W)



Fieldtrip (F) Outreach (O) Water Based Activity (W) offered September - May Only

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Nature Tots - Toddler Programming

Nature Tots is a fun, age-appropriate way for little explorers to connect with the outdoors through gentle songs, sensory play, and short nature walks. With caring guides and safe, hands-on activities, kids build early curiosity about plants, animals, and the natural world.

Nature Tots Field Trip options:

- Bugs and Insects – Discover bugs and insects up close with stories, songs, and fun hands-on activities!
- Birds – A Kid friendly birding adventure where we learn to spot birds, listen to their songs, and discover nature up close!
- Flower Power – Grow curious about flowers with creative activities, sensory play, and story time that helps little learners bloom!

Recommended ages: 2 - 4 years old (F) (O)

Program Duration: 1 - 1.5 hours



Fieldtrip (F) Outreach (O) offered September - May Only

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Fee's

FIELDTRIP PROGRAM

Bring your class or scout troop to the nature center and learn through our many hands-on educational talks. A field trip typically consists of a minimum 1.5-hour program at the nature center, during which students take part in the environmental topics of your choice. We can provide extended day's programming catered to your specific needs, so contact us to learn more.

- \$8.75 per child participant for 1 land-based program
- \$12.00 per child participant for 2 land-based programs
- \$15.00 per child participant for 1 land-based + 1 water-based program
- \$15.00 per child participant for 1 water-based program
-

Teachers are free. Any adults beyond these ratios will be required to pay the \$15.00 fee.

For land-based programs, we allow one (1) free adult chaperone for every ten (10) students. For water-based programs, a ratio of one (1) free adult chaperone for every six (6) students is required.

Time: 10:00AM - 3:00PM (Extended programming time or later time request will be at an additional fee. Contact the business office for details at (305) 662-4124).

Our programs can accommodate a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 100 participants per day. If your group does not meet one of these requirements, please consult with our staff as alternative options may be available.



Fee's

OUTREACH PROGRAM

An outreach program travels to you! We come to your location with your program of choice or a general information booth. We generally service Miami-Dade County region. Prices may vary based on distance and needs.

Fee: \$275 for the first class of 30 students. \$6 per student for each additional program requested (class size no more than 30 students). Fees may vary based on distance and needs. Please contact the business office for details at (305) 662-4124.

Time: 10:00AM – 3:00PM – Variable depending on needs.



Fieldtrip Q&A's

How can we make a reservation?

To make a reservation, please contact Aaron Mencia (305) 662-4124 or Aaron.Mencia@miamidade.gov for reservations. We recommend booking at least four weeks in advance to secure your preferred date and time. When you contact us, please have at least two dates that work for you and your group.

How is payment made?

A 50% non-refundable deposit is due within 10 business days of you receiving the invoice. This deposit is applied to your balance. Payment can be made via cash, credit card, check (No personal checks), or purchase order. Full payment is required BEFORE your program can commence the morning of. Final payment based on your final head count which must be provided 5 business days before your program date. Payments can be made in the form of school check, money order, credit card or cash. A non-refundable 2.21% transaction fee applied to all credit card payments.

What is the cancellation policy?

Miami EcoAdventures requires 5 business days advanced notice of any changes to booking or cancellations. Any cancellation received within 5 business days of the program will forfeit the deposit fee. No-shows will be charged 100% of trip total. Field Trip sites may cancel programs and activities when weather or other circumstances beyond our control make it necessary. Every attempt will be made to reschedule your field trip date. Groups that arrive at the program site with fewer people than originally booked and did not provide an adjustment prior to the program date within the required time frame will not receive a refund for the students not in attendance. All cancellations must be made in writing and sent via email to EcoAdventures@miamidade.gov.

Where are the parks located?

A.D. Barnes Park Nature Center: 3401 SW 72nd Ave., Miami, FL. 33155

Matheson Hammock Park: 9610 Old Cutler Rd., Coral Gables, FL. 33156

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Fieldtrip Q&A's

What is the duration of a fieldtrip?

Programs are scheduled in a 1.5-hour to 3-hour block between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. However, these times are flexible, and groups are welcome to stay the day until 4:00 PM after their program has concluded.

Is transportation provided?

Transportation is not included, so please arrange your own transportation to the nature center.

Can we eat lunch at the nature center?

Yes, designated outdoor picnic areas are available for lunch. Please let us know if you plan to have lunch on site. Lunches should be packed in sturdy boxes or coolers. It is the responsibility of the fieldtrip chaperones to unload and load lunches before and after your visit. We do not offer carts or dolly's to move the lunches. Please plan to clean up after your group.

Is there a bathroom available?

Yes, all our locations have restroom facilities. Please remind students to use them before we begin our activities.

What should students wear?

We recommend comfortable clothing, closed-toe shoes, and hats for sun protection. Dress for the weather!

What should we bring?

Please bring refillable water bottles, snacks, sunscreen, and any necessary personal items. We do not recommend students bring cell phones or electronics that could be damaged by the elements or natural areas.



Fieldtrip Q&A's

What if it rains?

We monitor weather conditions closely. In case of rain, some activities may be moved indoors or rescheduled. We'll keep you updated!

Are there any age restrictions for activities?

Most activities are suitable for all ages, but some may have specific recommendations. Check the activity descriptions for details.

Are there any safety guidelines we should follow?

Yes, we provide a safety briefing at the start of the trip. We ask that educators and chaperones attended the visit ensure students follow all guidelines for their safety. Groups that do not follow safety rules will be asked to leave with no option for a refund.

Loud noises keep animals in hiding and reduce your chances of seeing them. Therefore, be kind to the animals and plants at the park. Harassing wildlife is against the law and can harm the animals. Feeding the animals encourages them to be dependent on humans, which leads to increased chances of humans being bitten by that animal. Plants require their leaves to make food and their flowers to produce seeds so please do not pick the leaves, flowers, or bark of the plants. Please make sure this information is relayed to all participants and trip supervisors.

Can you accommodate people with special needs?

Yes, we strive to make our programs accessible for all. Please inform us in advance of any specific accommodations required, and we will do our best to assist.

How can we provide feedback after our visit?

We welcome your feedback! After your trip, please fill out the survey provided or contact us directly with your thoughts.

