



Insect Explorations Teacher Checklist

The excitement and adventure of an Armand Bayou Nature Center field trip begins with you! Several days before the scheduled event, please look over the checklist below. These important steps must be completed prior to our visit. We look forward to our visit with you!

The week before your trip:

- ✓ Call to confirm the number of attending students and chaperones.
- ✓ Introduce ponds to your students through the Insect Explorations Pre-Trip Activity: *Food Chain Theatrics*. (The activity can be downloaded from ABNC's website.)

The day before the trip:

- ✓ Remind students to wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes.
- ✓ Divide your class into groups of approximately 10-15 students. (When you call to confirm, our staff will let you know how many groups you should have in all.)
- ✓ Print and prepare *Insect Data Sheets* for your class if you plan to use them. (Forms can be downloaded from ABNC's website.) We suggest printing one to three forms per group to avoid wasting paper. If you need to borrow clipboards and pencils, please call ahead and let the nature center know.
- ✓ If you plan to participate in an enrichment activity, make arrangements to use cameras, prepare journals, and/or brainstorm questions. (See "During the trip" for details.)
- ✓ Prepare a check for the remainder of the balance for your field trip.
- ✓ Review the ABNC website's field trip tips:
www.abnc.org/educational-programs/field-trip-planner.html.



During the trip:



- ✓ Remind your students to be good listeners, and encourage them to be engaged in the class. Please participate in the class, as well. Students and parents will follow your example.
- ✓ To make your visit even more meaningful, you may wish to incorporate an enrichment activity into your field trip. Some ideas are:
 - Take pictures of the wildlife you see using digital cameras.
 - Assist students with keeping track of the insects they catch and see. (You may use the *Insect Data Sheets*.)
 - Write and draw about your observations. You can create your own journals or just have students make extra notes on their *Insect Data Sheets*.
 - Ask questions! Since students often forget their questions in the excitement of being away from school, it is often helpful to write their questions down before the trip. You might brainstorm a class question list or may have each student write a question on a note card.

After the trip:

- ✓ Ask students to describe their favorite parts of the trip and to recall some facts they learned. Also, discuss any questions or concerns they might have. Revisit topics from the pre-trip activity, as you see fit.
- ✓ Complete the post-trip activity: *Invent an Insect*. (Download the activity from ABNC's website.)
- ✓ You may engage students in an extension activity such as one of the following:
 - Have students write about their experiences at ABNC. If you took photos or journaled, use these as a basis for your writing. Nature is a great inspiration for descriptive writing and poem composition.
 - Make graphs based on students' insect observations, using the data sheets.
 - Study metamorphosis by observing live insects. Raise caterpillars and watch them morph into butterflies. Or raise mealworms. Mealworms are insect larvae and grow into mealworm, or darkling, beetles. Like butterflies, they undergo complete metamorphosis.

Thanks for visiting Armand Bayou Nature Center!

