



ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION

123 MAIN DRIVE • VENUS, FLORIDA 33960

Dear Parent/Guardian;

Your child's class will soon be visiting Archbold Biological Station as a part of our Elementary Environmental Education Program, which includes a pre-visit activities and a field trip. We would like to tell you a little about us, and describe the field trip portion of the program.

Established in 1941, Archbold Biological Station, an independent non-for profit organization, has been a wellspring of research, conservation, and education in Florida's heartland, in the headwaters of the Everglades. Our long-term research focuses on one of North America's rarest ecosystems - the Florida Scrub, which is home to many threatened and endangered plant and animal species found nowhere else on Earth. We manage nearly 20,000 acres with diverse natural habitats, including a nature preserve, a large working cattle ranch and an extensive wetland restoration project. This allows us to study and share information about the ecology and biodiversity of these areas, and the need for prescribed burning for the health of Florida habitats.

During the field trip, your child will have the opportunity to explore first hand our pristine Florida scrub preserve at the Station. We will lead your child's class through a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile nature trail, search sandy paths for animal tracks, visit a weather station, pet a live snake, and examine animal skulls, feathers, and other natural treasures. We recommend your child come prepared with long pants (to prevent scratches from plants), closed-toe shoes (not sandals), sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen.

Archbold is also open to the public. You and your family are welcome to visit and explore our Learning Center and self-guided trails between 8 AM-5 PM each day. Admission is free, but a donation of \$5 per visitor is appreciated to contribute to the Station's work. You can visit us online at these sites: www.archbold-station.org, www.youtube.com/archboldexpeditions, www.archboldedublog.org, www.facebook.com/ArchboldBiologicalStation, or www.facebook.com/scrubedu.

We look forward to having your child's class here for a visit. We do need you to sign and return the attached liability release to your child's teacher. If you have any questions please contact me in our Education office at 863-465-2571 ext 233 or email me at dangell@archbold-station.org

Sincerely,

Dustin Angell, *Education Coordinator*