Foodology
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Objectives

MLS/NGSS for 3-5:

LS1.B - Growth and Development of Organisms
LS2.B - Cycles of matter and energy transfer in ecosystems.
ESS3.A - Natural resources
ESS3.C - Human impacts on Earth’s systems
ETS1.A - Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems
ETS1.B - Developing Possible Solutions

About the Program

Directly or indirectly, plants are the source of all the food we eat. How is this food produced? How do farmers and gardeners know what to plant and how to care for it? What is meant by ‘Agricultural science’? During this program, students will:

- Learn what is meant by ‘agriculture’, and how the science of farming affects what foods are available to us throughout the year,
- Hear the story of George Washington Carver and how his research and discoveries in the field of agriculture continue to impact the way we plan and grow crops today,
- Plan a vegetable garden that takes into account the needs of the plants they choose to grow,
- Visit the William T. Kemper Center to observe agricultural practices in action, and
- Plant a seed to take home to care for and observe as it grows.

George Washington Carver

Born into slavery in 1865, George Washington Carver’s interest in nature and plants developed early. By the age of 12 he was known in the farming community of Diamond Grove, Missouri as “the plant doctor”. He became the first African-American to study at Iowa Agricultural College and serve on its botany faculty. At the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Carver revolutionized farming in the South by introducing plant diversity, crop rotation, natural fertilizers and conservation methods.

By the end of his life, Carver was an internationally renowned figure, one of America’s greatest scientists, teachers, humanitarians and advocates for productive, sustainable agriculture. Consider reading a biography of Dr. Carver’s life and inspiring journey with your students!
This Program Features:
The William T. Kemper Center

The William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening includes 23 distinct demonstration gardens ranging from bird and butterfly gardens to an impressive vegetable garden and a garden for children! The outdoor portion of Foodology brings students here to observe the ways in which modern agricultural practices are used in gardens and farms in the St. Louis region, visit the Carver Garden, and discuss approaches to choosing and arranging plants. Teachers are encouraged to consider the Kemper Center a resource for ideas when planning their own school gardens.

Otner Places to Explore...
Make the most of your visit by taking your students to explore the following areas after your program:

1. The Victorian District - Visit Henry Shaw’s country home and experience what life was like in St. Louis during the mid-1800s. Then enjoy the Kaiser Maze and the ornate Victorian gardens.

2. The Climatron Axis - Walk through a tropical rainforest and explore the interactive exhibits in the Brookings Interpretive Center. Don’t miss the bog and Moorish gardens in the Schoenberg Temperate House!

3. The Linnean House - See one of the oldest greenhouses in the United States. Enjoy our camellia and succulent collections, and stroll through the Gladney Rose Garden.

Logistics for Teachers
• Each Seasonal Snapshot program lasts 2 hours and serves a maximum of 60 students.
• Up to two programs may be booked on the same day at the same time, pending availability.
• Program fees include admission for up to six adults per 30 students. (Additional adults will be charged normal admission rates.) Please try to bring at least one adult for every five students.
• Groups booking this program may eat lunch in their assigned program space if they wish. (Please note that picnicking on the Garden’s grounds is prohibited.)
• Program availability is limited! Book early!

For more information or to book this program, please visit www.mobot.org/schoolprograms or call the School Programs office at 314-577-5185.