

UC Davis Arboretum Outdoor Education Program

What is the UC Davis Arboretum?

Mission:

To be a living museum connecting people with the beauty and value of plants.

Explain to students:

- The UC Davis Arboretum is a **huge garden** (100 acres—1.5 miles long).
- It is located on the **University of California, Davis campus**, so when they visit, they are going to college for the day!
- The word “arboretum” comes from the Latin word “arbor,” which means tree (similar to the Spanish, “arbol”). So the Arboretum is a “**tree museum**.” In addition to trees, the Arboretum has plants from all over California and the world. **Hundreds** of different mammals, birds, insects, fish, and other animals also live in the Arboretum and depend on the plants for survival.
- The Arboretum is actually a museum. Unlike other museums, everything is outside! Unlike zoos, the animals and plants of the Arboretum roam and grow freely in the garden and beyond it. It is a **living outdoor museum**.
- When you visit with your class, it is important to respect and not harm the plants and animals. The UC Davis Arboretum staff expects students’ best classroom behavior as they learn in the Arboretum. It is like an **outdoor classroom**.

