Growing Students in Science brings students to The Holden Arboretum for hands-on lessons that stimulate student interest in the natural sciences and match the state curriculum objectives. Students participating in the three-year program make two field trips to Holden each year, complimented by a visit to their classroom by Holden staff. Classroom lessons are matched with two professional development workshops. The workshops provide teachers with the tools and supplies needed to teach additional hands-on inquiry activities targeted at grade-level standards.

Participating Districts since 2003

- Archbishop Lyke
- Beachwood
- Cleveland Heights
- Euclid
- Fairport Harbor
- Kirtland
- Mayfield
- Notre Dame- Cathedral
- Latin
- Orange
- Painesville City
- Perry
- Richmond Heights
- Riverside
- St. Clare
- South Euclid/Lyndhurst
- Wickliffe
- Willo-Hill Christian
- Willoughby-Eastlake
- City Schools

I truly was not a science teacher nor did I have too much interest in it. However this experience has enlightened me and excited me plus giving me a whole new insight to teaching it. I am not really sure who enjoyed this program more, myself or my students.

–Third Grade Euclid Teacher
How to Get Involved

Most districts/schools start GSS in either second or third grade and progressively add a grade level as the students advance. Participation is determined by the end of the previous school year. All local school districts/schools are welcome to participate. Costs associated with the program cover field trips, classroom visits, kits of materials and teacher professional development.

Grade 5
What I liked best about my visits to Holden is that every time we came I learned something new I didn’t know.
-Painesville student

Grade 4
“The dichotomous key was fun when we found the difference between a shrub and a tree.”
-Mayfield City student

Grade 3
I liked seeing what a real forest looks like, and not just a picture, which seems so small.
-Orange local student

Grade 2
“I haven’t used a thermometer in my whole life! I think they are so cool!”
-Beachwood City student

Students collect data in various local ecosystems throughout the year.

Students explore the patterns of change in an environment.

Students explore how animals and plants interact in a forest community.

Students discover how trees are important in past and present environments.

For More Information
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