



**FieldLab: Science Beyond the Classroom** is a hands-on field trip designed for students to explore real-world research and species identification in action. Students will hike approximately 2 miles round trip to visit a gopher tortoise habitat, where they'll observe a live burrow scoping and learn about this keystone species. Along the trail, they'll dive into Birding 101 and practice techniques for identifying both birds and native plants. The program includes time for lunch in the field before the group returns, offering an immersive experience in local ecology and fieldwork skills.

**Grades:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Group Size Limit:** 20 - 30 students

**Length of Field Trip:** 3 hours with 30 minute break for lunch

**Standards covered:** SC23.7.E, SC23.7.UD, SC23.BIO.E, SC23.BIO.UD, SC23.ES.UD, SC23.ES.ES, SC23.ES.EHA

**Activities:**

- Guided Walk (2 miles roundtrip)
- Live Scoping of Gopher Tortoise Burrow
- Birding 101
- Free time

**Additional Information:**

Students are encouraged to wear pants and closed-toe shoes. They should also bring a water bottle and apply bug spray before arrival.

*If you have students with physical disabilities, please notify us in advance. A staff member will be available to provide transportation via golf cart.*

## **Sample Itinerary**

*This is a sample itinerary. A customized itinerary will be created for your group based on your length of stay, students' ages, and your arrival and departure times.*

Title: **FieldLab: Science Beyond the Classroom**

**Meeting Location:** Orange Beach Sportsplex

**Time:** 9 am -12 pm

**Maximum Group Size:** 20-30

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9:00 – 9:15 AM: Arrive at Sportsplex / Unload Lunch / Bathroom Break

- 1 staff- Use Cushman to drop lunch stuff at Butterfly Pavilion

9:15 – 10:00 AM: Guided Walk to Gopher Tortoise Habitat

10:00 – 10:30 AM: Burrow Scoping / Tortoise Talk

10:30 – 11:00 AM: Birding 101

11:00 – 11:45 AM: Walk to Butterfly Garden

11:45 – 12:15 AM: Lunch / Bathroom Break

12:15 – 1:00 PM: Walk back to Sportsplex

### ***Optional Self-led Activity***

1:00 – 1:45 PM: Drive to the Nature Center