



## 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 pre-visit presentations and activities. 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 firsthand our pristine Florida scrub preserve at the Station. We will lead your child's class through a ¾ 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. Your child should come prepared with long pants and closed-toe shoes (not sandals). We also recommend a hat, water bottle and sunscreen.

For more information about Archbold and our offerings, you can visit us online at these sites: [www.archbold-education.com/](http://www.archbold-education.com/), [www.archbold-station.org](http://www.archbold-station.org), [www.youtube.com/archboldexpeditions](http://www.youtube.com/archboldexpeditions), [www.archboldedublog.org](http://www.archboldedublog.org), [www.facebook.com/ArchboldBiologicalStation](http://www.facebook.com/ArchboldBiologicalStation), or [www.facebook.com/scrubedu](http://www.facebook.com/scrubedu). We look forward to having your child's class here for a visit.

We need you to sign and return the attached liability release to your child's teacher. If you have any questions, please contact the Education program at 863-465-2571 ext 206 or email [education@archbold-station.org](mailto:education@archbold-station.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Caldwell'.

Katie Caldwell

Education Assistant



**By signing this, I agree that I understand and will comply with all of the following:**

In order to induce Archbold Expeditions, its trustees, officers, agents, scientists, staff and any other affiliated or associated parties (together referred to as "Archbold") to allow the visitor access to its premises, and to permit the visitor to participate in its programs, the visitor, in consideration thereof, agree as follows:

- Visitor understands that Archbold is a biological field station, including a working cattle ranch, designed to study specific natural and agricultural habitats with all of the accompanying risks. Archbold is not an amusement park, botanical garden, or controlled Animal Park.
- Visitor fully understands that activities at Archbold are inherently hazardous and involve risks of personal injury or illness, including, but not limited to, risks associated with: (1) being outdoors in wildland terrain and water bodies; (2) being in the presence of inclement weather conditions including, but not limited to, lightening, wind, and excess rain; (3) potentially harmful wild plants; (4) potentially dangerous wild animals and farm animals; (5) ecological and agricultural field research; (6) land management practices and agricultural operations; (7) potential exposure to agrochemicals and other herbicides/pesticides; (8) prevailing and extreme weather conditions; (9) prescribed burns, wildfires, and other outdoor conditions; (10) travel by private and Archbold vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, boats and canoes; (11) indoor laboratory conditions; (12) sports and other recreational activities, including but not limited to swimming; and (13) accidents or illness in a remote rural area without "on-site" medical facilities. In light of this understanding, visitor hereby acknowledges full responsibility for and assumption of risk of any and all harm of any nature whatsoever that comes to the visitor as a result of having access to Archbold premises or participating in its programs.
- Visitor acknowledges that no representations have been made that entering the premises of Archbold or participating in Archbold's programs or activities will be safe, but that Archbold has expressly represented herein that entering the premises and participating in its programs and activities involves risk, which the visitor assumes as a condition of their involvement with Archbold.
- Visitor further understands and agrees that Archbold assumes no responsibility for personal property of visitor. Such property is stored on Archbold premises at the sole risk of visitor.
- Visitor (for him/herself and for their heirs, representatives, successors, assigns and dependents) hereby: (a) releases and discharges Archbold from any and all responsibility for or liability to visitor, which may be caused by the negligence, or otherwise, of Archbold; (b) releases and discharges Archbold from all actions, claims, demands, expenses, attorney's fees, compensation, and all consequential or other damages that may accrue for any injury, death, or property damage as a result of, or in connection with, visitor's access to the premises or participation in the programs of Archbold; (c) agrees that they shall have no right of action against Archbold for negligence, or otherwise, and shall not bring an action, make a claim against, sue, attach the property of, or prosecute Archbold for any injury, death, or property damage accruing as a result of, or in connection with, visitor's access to the premises and participation in the activities of Archbold; (d) agrees to indemnify and hold Archbold harmless against all claims, damages, and causes of action from any injuries to the person and property of visitor, including attorney's fees and all costs in defending against such claims and causes of action made by or on behalf of visitor for negligence, or otherwise. The term "negligence" as used in the Release of Liability shall include all degrees of negligence.