

Journey Through Pollination

If you think your schedule is busy, you've got nothing on the bees! Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and even some birds and bats are the unsung heroes of the planet. As they work tirelessly to collect nutrients for their own survival, they simultaneously pollinate most of world's flowering plants, including many of the foods we love to eat! Can you imagine a world without apples, mangos, avocados, or almonds? Who knew that visiting flowers all day (or all night!) could *bee* so important? This week, we'll journey through the process of pollination and discover how a sip of sweet nectar results in a juicy, tasty fruit. We'll search for pollinators in meadows and forest trails, and along waterways and coastlines. We'll play fun nature games and investigate the many issues that threaten pollinators today. To engage in tangible solutions, we'll work in the garden, build our own bee homes, and pick up litter wherever we are. We'll end the week with a visit from a professional beekeeper and his bees to learn how caring for pollinators is beneficial for people, for plants, and for the overall health of our environment.

Schedule:

Day 1 – The Journey Begins: Introduction to SNAP and Pollination. We start our week by learning all about the process of pollination and the importance of pollinators. Did you know that insects, mammals and even the wind can assist with pollination? We'll explore the meadow and forest in search of pollinators, and we'll also go fishing and find out why bees hang out by the stream.

Day 2 - Garden & Trail Discoveries: The Diversity of Flowers, Fruits, and Pollinators. A morning spent in the forest and along the trails is where we'll discover many kinds of trees from Hawai'i and from abroad. We'll look for their flowers of different colors, shapes, and smells and think about the variety of pollinators that help to produce their equally unique fruits. Along with playing fun pollinator games, we'll use our senses to explore the Center's gardens and encounter even more plant and pollinator diversity.

Day 3 - A Day in the Life of a Pollinator: All Day Hike through Makiki Valley. Make sure to get plenty of rest the night before, because today we're going on an all day hike in Makiki Valley! A scavenger hunt will have us looking for fruits, flowers, and forest pollinators as we imagine what a day in the valley might be like for a bee, butterfly, or nectar-drinking bird. Along the way, we'll enjoy a picnic lunch and do our part to help nature by picking up litter on the trail. **Please wear hiking shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Have your backpack ready for the trail with healthy snacks (bring at least 2), a big lunch, and plenty of water.*

Day 4 - Search for Coastal Pollinators: Field trip to Sandy Beach Park. Let's venture to the coast to explore the diversity of flowering plants and the pollinators that frequent the coastlines. We'll look for native yellow-faced bees in driftwood and coral rubble as we learn ways to protect these small, solitary endangered pollinators. We'll also search for tide pool creatures and consider how the ocean assists certain marine plants with the process of pollination. **Please wear closed-toe shoes, hat, sunscreen, and bring plenty of water. Don't be late - **the bus leaves at 8:45am!***

Day 5 - A Look Inside the Hive: Visit From a Beekeeper. Today we delve into the inner workings of a beehive. We'll search for hives in the forest and discover how bees work together and communicate through fascinating dances, followed by an up-close look through microscopes at flowers, pollen, seeds, and honey combs. Local beekeeper Chris Richardson will give us a glimpse of a honeybees' world and what life is like inside a hive. We'll end the week with a sweet bee-made treat as we reflect on why bees are so important to people and how we can help them and other pollinators.