

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF FAIRCHILD: EDUCATION OUTREACH

By David Whitman



David Whitman/FTBG

Creative, competitive

teenagers: Seventh grader Ricky Jaime of South Miami Middle School demonstrates his flexibility at the Sibley *Victoria amazonica* Pool. As part of this year's Fairchild Challenge, his school's troupe is working on a dance about hurricanes. More than 10,000 students from 100 Miami-Dade schools are expected to compete in this year's 24 competitive Challenge options that encourage environmental learning through a broad range of disciplines.



David Whitman/FTBG

Intergenerational learning:

As part of the Green Treasures and Fairchild Challenge outreach programs, students explore traditional uses of tropical plants. Here, Carver Middle School students conduct interviews at Fairchild in Spanish to record their elders' stories of how they used plants in their countries of origin.



David Whitman/FTBG

Little learner: As part of the Fairchild Explorer Program, a student from the Children's Home Society of Florida explores Fairchild's butterfly garden. CHS provides adoption, foster care, treatment for developmentally disabled children, child abuse prevention, and individual counseling.



Jeremy Davitt/FTBG

FAIRCHILD AFTER DARK:

L.E.A.F. (Let's Explore at Fairchild) nature club members joyfully await nightfall at Center Lake. Every year, as part of each 9-week session, Fairchild hosts a sleepless overnight camp for LEAFers, ages 7 to 11.

From toddlers to centenarians, Fairchild's education outreach programs engage learners of diverse abilities and passions. These programs encourage students to better understand tropical plants, appreciate and value biodiversity, and reflect on how they can help improve the environment.

More than 16,000 students are involved annually in Fairchild's creative, multi-disciplinary, standards-based programs for grades K-12. Under-resourced schools are key partners in these outreach efforts, as Fairchild is committed to reaching South Floridians of all backgrounds. Also, over 1,500 adults enroll annually in horticulture, art, health, and cuisine classes offered through the continuing education program.

Our extensive outreach activities include working with some 200 schools, participating in community events and environmental forums, judging at science competitions, presenting professional development workshops, speaking to community groups, raising funds to support environmental education initiatives, advising on school and community gardens, and countless other efforts that take Fairchild far beyond its physical boundaries.

FAIRCHILD'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION PARTNERS INCLUDE

Audubon of Florida • Ayuda, Inc. • Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection • Castellow Hammock Park CHARLEE Program • Children's Home Society • Citizens for a Better South Florida • Crandon Park Visitors & Nature Center • Dade Assoc. of Academic Non-Public Schools • Deering Estate at Cutler • EcoAdventures, Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Dept. • Fantasy Theatre Factory Florida International University • Friends of the Everglades • Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau • Haitian-American Senior Center Historical Museum of Southern Florida • Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center • Mattie Koonce Learning and Technology Center Miami Blue, North American Butterfly Association • Miami Dade College Miami-Dade County Dept. of Environmental Resources Management Miami-Dade County Public Schools • Miami River Commission • National Tropical Botanical Garden, The Kampong • Operation Green Leaves Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science • South Florida Water Management District • Southwest Social Services • Southwest Voter Registration Education Project • TREEmendous Miami • University of Florida • University of Miami • U. S. Coast Guard • Weed and Seed Wildlife Rescue • Youth Environmental Programs, and many others.