From a distance, McKee Botanical Garden seems a subtle and serene landscape, but a closer look reveals 18 acres of tropical terrain teeming with activity!

Younger visitors are invited to sharpen their senses and take part in a more enriching exploration of the Garden with our newly launched Garden Discovery Backpacks, complete with age-friendly exploration tools and guides. Backpacks are available for checkout at Admissions. Each contains an activity guide, journal and assortment of tools, as well as a different theme to help guide children - and adults - around the Garden! The five themes are:

Garden Explorer is the perfect introduction to the Garden and some of its special features. Garden Explorer is appropriate for all ages. Younger children may need help reading instructions and completing their “hunts.” This Guide and Journal, designed for the budding artist or writer, focuses on art and writing activities, and fun!

Choose Things with Wings and see the Garden through the eyes of bees, birds, and butterflies. Things with Wings is a fun way for kids of all ages to learn more about winged creatures. Small children may need help choosing an activity and reading instructions.

It’s a Bug’s World is perfect for the budding scientist. If you want to try to catch a bug, choose this backpack. It’s a Bug’s World is appropriate for all ages. Younger children may need help reading instructions and collecting specimens. This guide and journal provide information that will fascinate young bug enthusiasts and educate bug haters. People and plants depend on bugs!

Plantastic is appropriate for older children (age 9-12). If you love the environment, botany, or science, this adventure is for you! Use this Activity Guide and Journal to sharpen your observation and sketching skills.

Survival: Lost in the Jungle is perfect for older children (age 9-12) with active imaginations. Choose this backpack and gain some basic survival skills.

There is no additional charge for using the backpacks; visitors will be asked to leave a driver’s license or other form of ID as a deposit. We encourage you to bring your children and grandchildren to explore the Garden like never before!

Please note that backpacks are not available for checkout during special events.

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