

## SENSE OF WONDER TRAIL WALK: INSPIRED BY RACHEL CARSON

**Activity Overview:** Students will follow in Rachel Carson's footsteps by exploring the Maine Woods trail or the Cedar Ledge trail at the Gardens. They will develop their "sense of wonder" through a series of guided prompts. This walk is between 60-90 minutes.

**Maximum Number of participants:** up to 25 students

**Introduction:** This activity is designed to introduce students to Rachel Carson's influence and awaken or perpetuate a sense of wonder about nature. The activity involves walking the Maine Woods or Cedar Ledge trail, stopping several times for observation and discovery, followed by questions to help students share their experience of nature. The role of the guide is to expose students to several pieces of the web of life in nature. The role of the teachers and the chaperones is to participate with the children while they explore and discover. This activity is intended to be a joyful, wondrous observation of nature.

**Note:** This activity involves walking on a hilly, unimproved trail. Sneakers or boots are required.

**Before the activity:** When your group arrives at the Gardens, you will go to your designated home base to receive admission stickers, drop off backpacks, use the restrooms, and meet your Gardens Guide who will introduce you to the tour.

### Things to know:

- the activity is designed for students to experience the sense of wonder that Rachel Carson felt whenever she was in a wild, natural place
- the students will walk on a trail that is not cultivated or manicured like the other garden areas they will see
- the students will see many wild, beautiful, and natural things such as moss, lichen, mushrooms, birds, animals, insects, plants, and trees
- the students will stop at different points along the trail to explore some of the amazing pieces of the web of life and will hear some words from Rachel Carson

There is a post-visit activity on the second page of this document.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Using the Rachel Carson quotes as inspiration, draw a picture of your visit to the Gardens.

*In nature nothing exists  
alone.*

*Those who dwell among the  
beauties and mysteries of  
the earth are never alone or  
weary of life.*

*Those who contemplate the  
beauty of the earth find  
reserves of strength that will  
endure as long as life lasts.*

*The more clearly we can  
focus our attention on the  
wonders and realities of the  
universe about us, the less  
taste we shall have for  
destruction.*

*It is not half so important to  
know as to feel.*