

School Garden Workshop Series

Managing Student Behavior Outdoors

Compiled by the Civic Garden Center

Websites:

- <http://www.birdsleuth.org/leading-groups-outdoors-tips/>
- <https://www.fossweb.com/taking-foss-outdoors>
- <https://www.plt.org/educator-tips/why-teach-outside/>

Attachments:

- [Outdoor Teaching Guide \(FOSS\)](#)

General Tips:

Remember that taking students outdoors creates amazing opportunities (along with some challenges) and enhances the learning experience! Here are a few tips to add to your tool box of strategies:

- Break the lesson up into several stations so there are no more than 10 students at each station
- Enlist the help of parent volunteers to facilitate each station
- Set up stations in the outdoor classroom in a thoughtful manner, creating an atmosphere for learning and a good flow (just as you would indoors)
- Give students clear expectations before heading outside and keep your word, empty threats will only solidify bad behaviors
- Give the students tools and directions before heading outdoors
- Agree to a set of rules and bring them outdoors so you can refer to them during the lesson
- Incorporate a transition signal (whistle, bell, etc.)
- Use your outdoor voice to compete with extraneous noises
- Make sure students are dressed for weather conditions; if they're cold, they won't pay attention
- Ask plenty of questions to keep students engaged and allow them to do the same
- Have fun! Outdoor experiences should be enjoyable and rewarding for educators too

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