



Attention Teachers:

Would you like for your class to trade in the Nature Exchange?

We encourage teachers to bring students of all ages to the Nature Exchange at the Springs Preserve. If you would like to simply introduce your students to the Nature Exchange and allow them to take a look around, there is no need to call in advance to notify us of your visit.

However, if you would like for your students to carry out a trade during their visit, you are required to book in advance directly with Nature Exchange Staff.

Please call the Nature Exchange before your planned visit to schedule a trading experience. Scheduling in advance will ensure that your class will not be attempting to trade at the same time as several other classes. **If you arrive unannounced to trade and we are not prepared for you, we will likely have to turn your class away.** Schedule as far in advance as possible, no fewer than seven days before your planned visit.

To schedule a visit, contact Chris Sakmar or Emmi Saunders at:

Phone: (702) 822-7759

Emmi's e-mail: emmi.saunders@springspreserve.org

Chris's e-mail: chris.sakmar@springspreserve.org

Please remember that the trading experience takes time, and plan accordingly. It often works better if you divide the class into small groups to study and trade a single item per group. Also, remember that there are some items that we do not take for trade. For more tips and advice on how to make the most of your visit, and for lists of prohibited items, please contact Chris or Emmi at the e-mail addresses or phone number listed above.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Trading in the Nature Exchange

What Kinds of Things Can and Can't Be Traded?

Most visitors trade rocks, fossils, dead insects, leaves, or shells. We only accept natural items that have not been worked on by people (like spear points), except for polished rocks or shells. We also accept casts of animal tracks.

We encourage responsible and ethical collecting. We cannot accept items that come from protected lands or water areas (like parks and rivers), damage the environment, come from endangered or threatened species, come from the Springs Preserve site, or are in the Springs Preserve's live animal collection. We cannot take items from vertebrates (animals with backbones), with the exception of a shed snakeskin or shark teeth. All insects or marine animals must be dead, dried out, and have died of natural causes. Finally, we do not accept bird feathers, nests, or eggs.

Don't forget, you can get points for submitting a photo, journal entry or even a brief report.



What Else Do Traders Need To Know?

- The sharing of information is just as important as the item itself.
- Only bring in one or two samples of each specimen.
- We cannot provide “quotes” until we get a chance to inspect an item.
- We don't identify items - it's up to the trader to do the research ahead of time.
- Items brought in should be clean and ready to be displayed to the public.
- Pictures and journaling are also encouraged. If you take a picture or write a journal entry about a prohibited item, you will still receive points for it.
- Be patient, as trading can take time.
- If you bring in something we can't accept you can still receive points for telling us what you know about it.
- If you don't agree with the number of points being offered, you don't have to trade the item.
- Once a trade is completed, you must wait 24 hours before trading the items back to the Nature Exchange.