Butterfly Field Lab

Hands-on butterfly science with a PhD entomologist, from Pre-K storytime to high school taxonomy.



Butterfly Field Lab: mobile science programs for schools, homeschool groups and family events.

Lucy Garcia Salik, PhD, brings preserved butterfly specimens from her own drawer and microscopes to Pre-K–12 students across Dallas–Fort Worth.

Now booking School Day visits for spring 2027 and Family Science Nights for fall 2026 or spring 2027.

Meet Lucy Garcia Salik, PhD

Co-founder · Scientific Lead

TRAINING	PhD in Entomology — doctoral and postdoctoral research on the taxonomy and molecular phylogeny of Neotropical butterflies (Nymphalidae).
EXHIBIT	Lepidopterist Lead, Fort Worth Botanic Garden “Butterflies in the Garden,” 2024–2026.
ENTOMOLOGY	Entomology Team Associate, Texas Discovery Gardens Butterfly Conservatory and Insect Zoo, 2026.
TEACHING	Science educator since 2005 — museum science communication in Brazil and science lab teacher in Texas.
PROFESSIONAL	Member, International Association of Butterfly Exhibitors and Suppliers (IABES)

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Reference specimen photo: Yale Peabody Museum; photo by Paul Shamble 2011, CC0 1.0.

Butterflies Under the Microscope

Exploring the Microscopic World of Lepidoptera

GRADES	Grades 6–12
LENGTH	45–60 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

What students do

- Observation of scales under the microscope (pigment vs. structural coloration)
- How scientists tell males and females apart
- Observation of wing venation (clearing/diafanization)
- Identification of external morphology
- Whole-class demonstration

What each student makes

Each student draws a butterfly based on microscopic observation.

High school classes can add an advanced module on the reproductive structures taxonomists use to identify species (on request).

Connects to

Microscopes and lab tools, structure and function, observations as evidence, how scientists classify species, and scientific drawing.

Standards

GRADE 6	TEKS §112.26 (b)(1)(D), (b)(1)(E)†, (b)(5)(A), (b)(5)(F)
GRADE 7	TEKS §112.27 (b)(1)(D), (b)(1)(E)†, (b)(5)(A), (b)(5)(F), (b)(14)(A)
GRADE 8	TEKS §112.28 (b)(1)(D), (b)(1)(E)†, (b)(5)(A), (b)(5)(F)
HIGH SCHOOL	TEKS §112.42 Biology (c)(1)(D), (c)(1)(E)†, (c)(1)(F)

Expectation numbers are TEA's. † partial fit. Full wording and plain-language summaries: butterfliesandboardgames.com/education#standards

Butterfly Superpowers

Color, Camouflage, and Adaptations

GRADES	Grades 1–8
LENGTH	45–60 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

What students do

- Microscopic observation of scales
- Demonstration of iridescence using exotic species
- Game: “Which butterfly belongs to which biome?”
- Mini light-and-color experiment
- Curiosities about defense, mimicry, and camouflage

What each student makes

Students create a camouflaged butterfly on paper.

Connects to

Structure and function, how body features help animals survive, adaptations, light and color, and art and science together.

Standards

GRADE 1	TEKS §112.3 (b)(1)(D), (b)(4)(B), (b)(5)(F), (b)(13)(A)
GRADE 2	TEKS §112.4 (b)(1)(D), (b)(4)(B), (b)(5)(F)
GRADE 3	TEKS §112.5 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F), (b)(13)(A), (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 4	TEKS §112.6 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F), (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 5	TEKS §112.7 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F), (b)(13)(A), (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 6	TEKS §112.26 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F)
GRADE 7	TEKS §112.27 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F)
GRADE 8	TEKS §112.28 (b)(1)(D), (b)(5)(F), (b)(13)(C)†

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Scientist for a Day

Taxonomy and Phylogeny of Lepidoptera

GRADES	Grades 9–12
LENGTH	45–60 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

What students do

- Introduction to taxonomy and phylogeny
- Comparison of Lepidoptera families
- How taxonomists identify species using morphology
- Mini classification lab

What each student makes

Students create a mini identification key.

Connects to

How taxonomists identify species, shared body structures as evidence of relationships, finding patterns in observations, and organizing data in an identification key.

Standards

HIGH SCHOOL — TEKS §112.42 Biology (c)(1)(F), (c)(2)(B)†, (c)(9)(A)†

Expectation numbers are TEA's. † partial fit. Full wording and plain-language summaries: butterfliesandboardgames.com/education#standards

Butterfly Storytime

Puppets + Music + Science

GRADES	Pre-K to grade 1
LENGTH	30–40 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

What students do

- Puppet story about the life cycle
- Ukulele music (themes: metamorphosis, colors, flight)
- Observation of exotic butterfly specimens (no microscopes)
- Simple, visual curiosities
- Art activity: “My Favorite Butterfly”

What each student makes

A “My Favorite Butterfly” artwork.

Connects to

Observing and describing living things, the butterfly life cycle told as a puppet story, plus music and art.

Standards

PRE-K	Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines PK4.VI.B.1, PK4.VI.B.2†
KINDERGARTEN	TEKS §112.2 (b)(4)(B), (b)(13)(B)
GRADE 1	TEKS §112.3 (b)(4)(B)

Expectation numbers are TEA's. † partial fit. Full wording and plain-language summaries: butterfliesandboardgames.com/education#standards

Butterfly Explorer

Geographic Distribution and Biomes

GRADES	Grades 3–8
LENGTH	45–60 minutes
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

What students do

- Giant floor map
- Students place species cards in the correct biomes
- Observation of morphological differences between biomes
- Curiosities about climate, altitude, host plants
- Discussion: how monarchs migrate through Texas each spring and fall

What each student makes

Individual map with five species and their biomes.

Connects to

How body features fit an environment, finding patterns, biomes and climate, seasonal migration, and using maps and regions.

Standards

GRADE 3	TEKS §112.5 (b)(13)(A), (b)(12)(A)†, (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 4	TEKS §112.6 (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 5	TEKS §112.7 (b)(13)(B)†, (b)(4)(B)†
GRADE 6	TEKS §112.26 (b)(5)(A)
GRADE 7	TEKS §112.27 (b)(5)(A)
GRADE 8	TEKS §112.28 (b)(5)(A)

Expectation numbers are TEA's. † partial fit. Full wording and plain-language summaries: butterfliesandboardgames.com/education#standards

Butterfly Frame Art

Scientific Mounting + Art

GRADES	Grades 9–12
GROUP SIZE	Up to 25 students per session

By request — materials fee per student

What students do

- Demonstration of scientific mounting
- Observation of spreading techniques
- History of scientific collecting
- Hands-on activity: students mount their own butterfly specimen using proper scientific technique
- Artistic activity: students create an illustrated “frame” inspired by the mounted specimen

What each student makes

A mounted butterfly specimen and an illustrated frame.

Connects to

Lab technique with real specimens, the history of scientific collecting, and art and science together.

Standards

HIGH SCHOOL	TEKS §112.42 Biology (c)(1)(D), (c)(4)(B)†

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HOW TO BOOK

Two ways to bring Butterfly Field Lab to your school

School Day

Lucy visits classrooms during the school day.

Half day · Up to 3 classroom sessions — **$450**

Full day · Up to 6 classroom sessions, for example a whole grade level — **$750**

Booking spring 2027

Family Science Night

An evening event for families, often PTA-funded, for up to about 300 attendees.

Founding rate · For our first three schools — **$650**

Then · After our first three schools — **$750**

Booking fall 2026 or spring 2027

A School Day is up to 3 sessions (half day) or up to 6 (full day). Pick one program for each session, matched to the class's grade level.

Running a library or homeschool program? Butterfly Storytime works well for library programs. Email hello@butterfliesandboardgames.com and we'll put something together. Questions about pricing or format? Email us.

What your school provides

A space for your group, tables and a power outlet. Lucy brings the microscopes, specimens and lab equipment for each session. We'll confirm space and AV details when we schedule.

Lucy brings preserved specimens only: no live butterflies, eggs, caterpillars, chrysalises or live plants. Life cycles and host plants come up as topics.

Paperwork

W-9 available; Invoice or purchase order accepted.

Request a program

Scan the code or go to **butterfliesandboardgames.com/education**. Tell us your grades, program and preferred dates; we reply within 2 business days.

hello@butterfliesandboardgames.com

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