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MONSANTO INSECTARIUM

A Larger-than-Life Look at Vast World of Invertebrates

Monsanto Insectarium offers a dramatic, intriguing view of the vast world of invertebrates. Opened in May 2000, the Insectarium is one of a handful of exhibits in North America dedicated solely to the most predominant group of animals on Earth.

The Insectarium has an array of interactive displays and more than 100 species of live insects from beetles and scorpions to spiders, walking sticks, millipedes, centipedes and more. Visitors can learn about the magnificent work of these underrated creatures - how they recycle waste, pollinate plants and support the entire cycle of life.

Encounter an eight-foot-long realistic steel sculpture of a centaurus beetle and follow a path through 20 major exhibit areas within the building.

Feel right at home in the real life "Not Home Alone" exhibit, complete with kitchen, front porch, yard and garden. Lift the lids and open the drawers of various discovery zones and get a new, and surprising, look at their personal environment.

There's a look at invertebrates' incredible engineering skills, their indispensable role in our ecosystem, and their distinctive ways of communicating with one another. Find out how some insects deal with living in the extremes of the desert.

In a life-size simulated tree which reaches through the ceiling, view a window into a working beehive, showing how these insects help pollinate our crops and feed millions of people on our planet. There's also a window into the research area, where you can watch keepers at work.

In the Mary Ann Lee **Butterfly Wing**, you'll find a geodesic dome of lush green plants and tropical flowers set among rock outcroppings, a waterfall and pool. Here butterflies and moths flutter near the pathways and overhead. Green and blue dragonflies and black-winged damselflies hover near the pool, looking for the perfect spot to lay their eggs. Katydid's dine on shrubs and trees provided just for them. The quiet pool also contains engaging aquatic insects such as water striders.

Admission to the St. Louis Zoo and Insectarium is free.

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