

Field Trip FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

What is the cost?

\$15 per student, up to 10 Chaperones are FREE including the teachers. Each additional chaperone is \$5.

Does our group qualify for a grant?

Contact the Education Department to see if your school qualifies for a grant. Email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org

How many students can attend?

Minimum of 20 students per field trip. If you have less than 20 students, you will be charged the rate of \$300 (the minimum amount for 20 students). The maximum number of students is 100. We ask you to provide a ratio of 1 chaperone per every 10 students (1:10).

Please divide your students into groups of 10 or less prior to the field trip. Each chaperone will be responsible for leading a group through The Garden and exploring the different exhibits on their activity sheet/scavenger hunt. ****POPSICLES ARE NOT FOR FIELD TRIP STUDENTS.****

What if we bring more students than we registered?

Please let us know **1 week prior** to your field trip if your number of **REGISTERED students increases**. This is very important information for our planning. Email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org

Where is The Garden?

We are located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon CA 92019. DO NOT RELY on Google Maps for bus driving directions.

Please print our specialized bus map [HERE](#) to lead you to the right location.

What happens when we arrive at The Garden?

The bus will arrive at our NORTH GATE at the large amphitheater entrance (unless instructed otherwise by our educators.) This is on the side by Cuyamaca College. The bus will pull up to LOT 4 parking lot and unload the students. Parents will be ticketed by campus police if they park anywhere but the Garden's main parking lot.

MAIN GARDEN ENTRANCE Address:

[The Water Conservation Garden](#)

[12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West](#)

[El Cajon, CA 92109](#)

FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Your field trip will last 2 hours plus 30 minutes for lunch (9:30-12:15pm), totaling 2 hours and 45 minutes. Bus arrival time at The Garden is 9:15am. This gives our educators time to unload the students into the large amphitheater. The program begins at 9:30am. Students will participate in a 20-25 minute presentation with Ms. Smarty-Plants followed by a planting. Teachers and Chaperones will lead the students on a self-guided tour of The Garden with our provided Activity Booklet/Scavenger Hunt. Educators will be posted at some of the exhibits to educate students.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

9:15am-Bus arrives, unload students

9:30am-9:55am-Ms. Smarty-Plants program

9:55am-10:10am-Planting

10:10-11:45am-Explore the Garden with activity sheets, bathroom breaks, etc.

11:45am-Lunch (if not having lunch bus pick up is 11:45)

12:15pm-Bus Pick Up

Not staying for Lunch. What are my options?

If you need space for students to run and play, [Hilton Head Park](#) is a 5 minute drive from The Garden with bathroom facilities. If you choose to take lunch at Hilton Head Park, ask your bus driver to please be ready by 11:30am/11:45am to drive students to the park. **PLEASE INFORM OUR EDUCATION TEAM IF YOU PLAN ON GOING TO HILTON HEAD PARK.**

What should I bring?

- Bring 1 small cardboard box per class to carry home the plants students will be planting. Printer paper boxes work well. Students will place their plant peat pots in the box to travel back to school.
- Please dress for the weather:
 - **Hot days**-Hats, sunscreen, water bottle.
 - **Cold days**-Jackets, hats, water bottle.
- We will be outside the duration of your field trip.

What will our students learn?

The curriculum meets California State Standards and is in line with NGSS, California State Standards, E-STEM and Common Core. During the field trip students engage in fun activities to discover plant adaptations, understand the water cycle, and water supply in our region, and learn ways to conserve our most precious resource: Water! All students will do a hands-on planting to take home, and younger students will learn a conservation song in Sign Language. Please no siblings or strollers, as parent chaperones will be asked to assist with fun activities.

What do we do if we need to cancel?

If you need to cancel for any reason, 48 hours' notice is required by contacting SmartyPlants@thegarden.org. One date change is permitted, but it is highly recommended to keep the original booking date. If 48 hours' notice of cancellation is not given, the deposit will not be

refunded. If you receive a grant from us and cancel without giving 48 hours' notice, your school may be excluded from future grant sponsorship.

We will take photos

Our education team will be taking photos. Please sticker the students prior to the field trip who can not be photographed. Please sign the [Mandatory Photo Waiver](#) form. Please share photos on social media with Ms. Smarty-Plants™!

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US:

Facebook: [@MsSmartyPlants](#) | Instagram: [@MsSmartyPlants](#)

twitter: [@MsSmartyP](#) | youtube: [Ms. Smarty Plants](#)

After your Field Trip

If you would like to write thank you letters, drawings, or cards to your grantor, please send to Ms. Smarty-Plants™ and she will pass them along. They are always welcome!

Rain Policy & Extreme Heat

We enjoy a little drizzle and giving field trips in the rain, so don't let a little mist scare you. Just make sure your students are well equipped with rainy day attire (jacket/raincoat, closed toed shoes, hats, etc.). Our educators will call the teacher the day before to discuss if the weather is questionable and cancel based on the weather. Email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org with concerns.

See you soon!!!

