

Field Trip FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

How do I make a reservation?

Fill out our Contact Form or Email Education@thegarden.org for any additional questions.

What is the cost?

A minimum of **25 students** is required to book a field trip. Maximum of **62 students** allowed.

- **Up to 32 students: \$350** (*includes 1 teacher and all classroom aides*).
- **Up to 62 students: \$650** (*includes 2 teachers and all classroom aides*).
- Additional parent chaperones are **\$5 per person** and must be paid in advance.
- Transportation and bus fees are **not included**. The Garden does not arrange transportation. Schools are responsible for coordinating and covering the cost of their own transportation.

Does our group qualify for a grant?

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

How many students can attend?

Minimum of 25 students per field trip. The maximum number of students is 60. We ask you to provide a ratio of 1 chaperone per every 6 students (1:6). Contact our Education team about additional group sizes.

Before arriving, please divide your students into four main groups, maintaining a 1:6 chaperone-to-student ratio within each group. Each chaperone will be responsible for leading their assigned group through The Garden.

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 education@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 the map from our website for your drivers or check your confirmation email with the bus map.**

What happens when we arrive at The Garden?

The bus will arrive at our NORTH ENTRANCE (unless instructed otherwise by our educators.) This is the bus roundabout on Cuyamaca College. Please have your driver follow the map provided by our educator. **All parents will be parking in the North Entrance and must pay the Cuyamaca College Parking fee of \$2.50. Please encourage carpooling.**

FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Your field trip will last 2 hours plus 30 minutes for lunch (9:30-12:00pm), totaling 2 hours and 30 minutes. Bus arrival time at The Garden is 9:30am. This gives our educators time to unload the students into the large amphitheater. Programs begins at 9:30am. Students will participate in a 25-minute presentation with our Garden Educator. 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. Guided tours will be available upon request of the teacher.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

9:30am: Bus arrives, unload students

9:30am-10:00am: Education Program

10:00-10:10: Break into Groups, hand out pencils and scavenger hunts

10:10-11:30am: Explore the Garden with activity sheets, bathroom breaks, etc.

11:30am: Lunch

12:00pm: 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 cardboard box per class to carry lunch boxes if school is having lunch in the Garden.

Please dress for the weather:

- Hot days-Hats, sunscreen, water bottle.
- Cold days-Jackets, hats, water bottle. On cold days, please send the students with a jacket. We will be outside the entire time.

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. 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 Education@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 are receiving a grant from us and cancel without giving 48 hours notice, your school may be excluded from future grant sponsorship.

Can we take photos?

We would love for you to take photos, but your class must sign the Mandatory Photo Waiver form. Please share photos on social media with The Garden! Our education team will be taking photos. **Please sticker the students prior to the field trip who can not be photographed.**

Do you have a cell phone policy?

Yes! Chaperones and teachers please limit your cell phone use to taking photographs and scanning our exhibit QR codes for additional learning.

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. We will then contact the teacher the morning of the field trip by 7:30am, if it is necessary to cancel due to weather (including excessive heat). Email Education@thegarden.org or call our Community Programs Manager, Yaily Gonzalez 619-621-7175.