

Garden Field Trip Tips, Rules and Guidelines

Our Education Staff strongly believes that the future of the planet will soon be in the hands of our children. In order for your students and parent chaperones to have the optimum learning experience at the Garden, we ask you to review these rules with your students and parent chaperones prior to your visit. Your time in the Garden will be short, yet power-packed with information about water conservation, plant adaptations, habitats and ecosystems and action steps we all can take to care for the earth. If you follow these guidelines, we are sure you will enjoy a valuable and memorable learning experience!

The Garden is a 5 acre outdoor learning facility. It is not a park or a playground, and as a public garden requires some special behaviors of visiting school groups that might be unfamiliar to children and adults. Children should be told the Garden is like an outdoor museum with similar rules for behavior.

All VISTORS PLEASE:

- 1) Stay on the paths at all times to protect our fragile plants and Garden habitat.
- 2) The paths are made of decomposed granite which can be dusty and noisy! Please pick up your feet when walking, and when stopping to listen to your Garden teacher, keep feet still.
- 3) Walk behind your Garden teacher, not in front of him or her.
- 4) Listen to your Garden teacher and be respectful at all times.
- 5) Please do not pick plants or touch them unless instructed by your Garden teacher.
- 6) **MOST OF ALL-HAVE FUN!**

CHAPERONES AND TEACHERS:

- 1) Chaperones will probably learn as much as the children! You are an important part of making the field trip a memorable day and a valuable learning experience for all.
- 2) **Younger and older siblings not enrolled in the class are not allowed to attend the field trip.** Other children are distracting to the class and their parent and we need our chaperones to assist our staff with the learning experience.
- 3) Any parent who arrives with siblings will be asked to enjoy the Garden on their own, but not participate in the field trip.
- 4) Please turn off your cell phones for the duration of the field trip.
- 5) You will be asked to be responsible for a small group of children while on the field trip.
- 6) Please do not socialize with other parents during the learning experience so you will be able to focus on helping the children and Garden staff.
- 7) Garden staff will ask chaperones to do several tasks during the field trip so please pay close attention for instructions!

WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR FIELD TRIP:

Your group will begin with an introduction to the Garden in our covered patio or amphitheater. Students will learn concepts directly in line with California State Standards, which will be reinforced during their Garden adventure. Your group will be divided in to several smaller groups with a Garden teacher for the tour, depending on the number of children you bring. Your tour in the Garden will take from 45 minutes to 1 hour. At the end of your tour, the groups will return to the covered patio for a concept review and a planting project. Your group will then learn a song in American Sign Language about how they will save the earth. You may remain in the Garden for snack or lunch after the program concludes. School groups may stay for approximately 2 to 2.5 hours in the Garden.