



Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Exploring, explaining and celebrating the world of plants

Student Field Trip FAQs

1. What is the pricing for students and teachers?

- A. Guided programs are \$5 per student and Independent Study programs are \$4 per student. Minimum amount of students for a guided program is 8 while it is 10 for independent study. If you don't meet that minimum, you will need to pay the difference.

The Botanical Garden requires a 1:8 ratio of chaperones to Pre-K and K-8th students and a 1:15 ratio of chaperones to 9-12th students. Teachers and chaperones inside of the ratio are FREE. Additional chaperones are \$7.

For payment, the Botanical Garden accepts credit card, check, cash or purchase orders.

2. Are there charges for student aides and bus drivers?

- A. There is no charge for personal student aides or bus drivers; however, they do not satisfy the Botanical Garden's chaperone requirements.

3. Who is a suitable chaperone?

- A. The Botanical Garden defines a chaperone as an adult (teacher, parent, volunteer, etc.) who supports classroom learning, while accompanying a group of students. A chaperone should be an individual who encourages learning and can give their attention to the entire group. Individual Student Aides and parents with young children are not suitable group chaperones.

4. Does the Botanical Garden offer bus/transportation grants or reduced admission for nonprofit groups?

- A. At this time, the Botanical Garden does NOT offer bus/transportation grants or reduced admission. Polk/Warren/Dallas county educators seeking to reduce field trip costs are encouraged to speak with their administrators about grants through Connecting Kids and Culture.

5. How do I submit a field trip reservation?

- A. Please visit our webpage (see link below) and complete the reservation form and submit online.

<https://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/programs/field-trips-outreach/>

6. When will I receive confirmation concerning my reservation?

- A. Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail within 3 business days of receiving your reservation request. You will receive your confirmed date and time and an orientation packet. Should you need to change dates, times or reschedule, please contact the Youth Education Coordinator as soon as possible.

7. How long should I plan to be at the Botanical Garden?

- A. Guided programs are scheduled for 90 minutes, but may finish sooner. It is recommended to allot 2-2½ hours for your visit so your class has time to explore on their own. Groups are welcome to stay longer than their allotted field trip, please communicate if you plan stay longer than 2½ hours.

8. Do you offer lunch space?

- A. The Botanical Garden has limited lunch space and picnicking is not allowed in the Garden. Classes of 50 may eat lunch on our Conservatory Balcony. Please keep in mind that the balcony may be uncomfortably warm at times. Eating on buses in the parking lot is permitted provided that trash is disposed of at the school. Classes smaller than 20 may make reservations at our Trellis Café and enjoy items from the menu.
Another option is to schedule lunch at a local park with shelters. We recommend Union Park, which is a short drive away.

9. How will a Botanical Garden field trip fit into my curriculum?

- A. Our guided programs are designed to complement Des Moines, West Des Moines, Urbandale, Johnston, Ankeny, Waukee and Diocese of Des Moines school curriculums. All of our guided programs have been aligned with the Iowa Core and will soon be aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Learn more about each of our programs by checking out the standards listed under each description.

10. How can I bring my drawing/art/photography students to the Botanical Garden?

- A. The Botanical Garden offers an Independent Study option for field trips. Just fill out a Reservation Form, indicate that you would like to do an Independent Study and write a short description about what you plan to do. Please contact the Youth Education Coordinator to discuss the details of your visit. Please note that easels are not permitted.

11. What is an Independent Study?

- A. An Independent Study is an unguided experience set for a specific time. Educators may use this time to tour the Garden on their own or to conduct their own lessons in art, photography, math, poetry or other subjects. Independent Study programs are scheduled like guided programs, so classes will have their own uninterrupted time in the Garden. Educators are asked to communicate the specifics of their Independent Study with the Youth Education Coordinator. Please note that there will be no other schools will be scheduled during your Independent Study, however, there may be other guests, events and rentals going on at the same time.

12. What happens if I need to cancel my trip?

- A. If you need to cancel your reservation, please notify the Youth Education Coordinator as soon as possible at 515.402.4273 or education@dmbotanicalgarden.com. If your group does not notify anyone of your cancellation and does not show, the Botanical Garden reserves the right to charge \$50 per program.