

## Homeschool FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

### **How do I make a reservation?**

[www.mssmartyplants.org/homeschool](http://www.mssmartyplants.org/homeschool)

### **When are Homeschool Field Trips available?**

Wednesday – Friday (9am – 10am)

### **What is the cost?**

\$10 per student, plus tax

15 student minimum (or \$150 minimum payment, plus tax).

Teachers are always free.

Six chaperones per field trip are free.

Each additional chaperone is \$3.

### **When will I be charged?**

At the time of booking, you will be asked to pay the full amount online.

We understand that you may not know the exact number of students attending at the time of booking, and suggest you book online for the minimum 15 students. Additional students can be paid on the day of your visit.

### **Is the amount refundable?**

There is a \$20 **non**-refundable deposit included in your ticket fee. The remaining amount is refundable, as long as 48 hours notice is provided for cancellation and reschedule, call 619-660-0614 x16

### **How many students can attend?**

We have a minimum of 10 students, and a maximum of 30 students. If you have over 30 students, please contact Education Manager, Jillian Quint for special arrangements [jillian@thegarden.org](mailto:jillian@thegarden.org) or 619-660-0614 x16.

### **Can siblings attend?**

All children attending will be asked to participate. If your little one is unable to join in the class activities, please have their parent walk with them through The Garden during the program.

### **What if we bring more students than we registered?**

You will receive a confirmation call on the Monday prior to your field trip. Please let us know at that time if your number of **REGISTERED students increases**. This is very important information for our tour guide. You can also reach us by calling 619-660-0614 x16.

### **What happens when we arrive at The Garden?**

This will be a really fun field trip! We will utilize most of the time exploring garden trails and seasonal highlights, plus a planting activity, where each student plants a succulent to take home.

### **How long is the Field Trip?**

Your field trip will last 1 hour. Please let our Educator know if you need to leave promptly at 10am, otherwise there may be additional time spent together. Your group is welcome to stay at The Garden once the program is complete as long as there is supervision, and respect for nature trails.

### **Where is The Garden?**

**DO NOT RELY on Google Maps** for driving directions. Please print our [directions](#) for your drivers. We will also have an A-frame directional sign with Ms. Smarty-Plants™ at The Garden parking lot entrance.

### **What should I bring?**

Please dress for the weather. Bring sun protection (sunscreen, hats) and wear closed-toed shoes. During the months of November-March there can be a slight chill in the air, so we recommend students having a long-sleeved layer. Don't forget your reusable water bottles! We have refilling stations throughout the garden. East County can get hot so hydration is very important.

### **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 11:15am to drive students to the park.

### **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 Ms. Smarty-Plants™!

facebook: [@MsSmartyPlants](#) | instagram: [@MsSmartyPlants](#)

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

### **Do you have a cell phone policy?**

Yes! Chaperones and teachers please limit your cell phone use to taking photographs only.

### **Guidelines & Rules**

1. For safety reasons the paved plaza including path to the gift shop, restrooms and patio are **NO RUNNING ZONES!**
2. Stay on the paths at all times to protect our fragile plants and Garden habitat.
3. 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.
4. Walk behind your Garden teacher, listen to your Garden teacher and be respectful.
5. Please do not pick plants or touch them unless instructed by your Garden teacher.
6. In an effort to conserve water, limit your group to a maximum of 2 times through the 'Water Surprise.'
7. **MOST OF ALL-HAVE FUN!**

### **And for 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!

Click [here](#) for fun printables for students to enjoy. These do NOT need to be printed for your field trip.

### **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 you the day before to discuss, if the weather is questionable. We will then contact your teacher the morning of the field trip by 7:30am, if it is necessary to cancel due to weather (including excessive heat). Call 619-660-0614 ext 16 or email [jillian@thegarden.org](mailto:jillian@thegarden.org) with concerns.