

Field Trip FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

How do I make a reservation?

<http://www.mssmartyplants.org/fieldtrips>

What is the cost?

\$8 per student, plus tax.

20 student minimum (or \$160 minimum, plus tax).

Teachers are always free.

Six chaperones per field trip are free.

Each additional chaperone is \$3.

Does our group qualify for a grant?

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

How many students can attend?

Minimum of 20 students per field trip

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 tour guides. Email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org

What happens when we arrive at The Garden?

On the day of field trip Ms. Smarty-Plants will meet your bus at the curb and she will hop aboard to greet students. Then they will proceed to our Outdoor Classroom for an interactive lesson, tour of The Garden, and planting. (If your classes are staying for lunch, lunch will start no later than 11:30am.)

How long is the Field Trip?

Your field trip will last 2 hours plus 30 minutes for lunch. Totaling 2.5 hours. Bus arrival time at The Garden is 9:30am, bus pickup time no later than 12:00pm.

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?

- Bring 1 box per class. 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. Bring sun protection (sunscreen, hats, parasols), 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! East County can get hot so hydration is very important.

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.

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.

What do we do if we need to cancel?

If you need to cancel for any reason, 48 hours notice is required by contacting (619) 660-0614 x16 or 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 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 Ms. Smarty-Plants™!

facebook: [@MsSmartyPlants](#) | instagram: [@Ms.SmartPlants](#)

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.

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 pintables 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 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). Call 619-660-0614 ext 16 or email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org with concerns.

See you soon!!!

