

Field Trip FAQ's (frequently asked questions)

How do I make a reservation?

<https://mssmartyplants.org/fieldtrips/>

What is the cost?

\$10 per students, up to 10 Chaperones are FREE including the teachers. Each additional chaperone is \$5.

Does our group qualify for a grant?

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

How many students can attend?

Minimum of 20 students per field trip. Maximum of 100 students. We ask you provide a ratio of 1 chaperone per every 10 students (1:10).

Please divide your students into groups of 10 prior to the field trip. Each chaperone will be responsible for leading their groups through The Garden and exploring the different exhibits on their activity sheet/scavenger hunt. ****POPSICLES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FOR DAILY GARDEN GUESTS, NOT FIELD TRIPS. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE THE STUDENTS POPSCILES. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THEM FOR SCHOOLS. ****

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 SmartyPlants@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 GATE at the large amphitheater entrance. This is on the side of Cuyamaca College. The bus will pull up to LOT 4 parking lot and unload the students. **PARENTS ARE TO PARK IN THE MAIN GARDEN ENTRANCE. YOU WILL BE TICKETED OR TOWED IF YOU PARK IN THE COLLEGE LOT.**

FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Your field trip will last 2 hours plus 30 minutes for lunch (9:30-12:00pm), totaling 2.5 hours. Bus arrival time at The Garden is 9:15am. 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 Ms. Smarty-Plants followed by a planting. 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.

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FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE:

9:15am-Bus arrives, unload students

9:30am-9:55am-Ms. Smarty-Plants program

9:55am-10:10am-Planting

10:10-11:45am-Explore the Garden with activity sheets, bathroom breaks, etc.

11:45am-Lunch

12:15pm-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 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 home the plants students will be planting. 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:
 - **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! 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.

What do we do if we need to cancel?

If you need to cancel for any reason, 48 hours notice is required by contacting 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™!

Our education team will be taking photos. Please sticker the students prior to the field trip who can not be photographed.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US:

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.

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 our Programs Manager, Lauren Magnuson at 828-719-6869 or email SmartyPlants@thegarden.org with concerns.

See you soon!!!

