



Guided School Visit FAQ

Please see below for a list of Frequently Asked Questions. For any additional information, please contact tours@sbbotanicgarden.org or (805) 682-4726 ext. 102.

Content & Capacity

What is the difference between a Guided School Tour and Self-Guided Visit?

During Guided School Tours, Garden educators facilitate nature investigations to connect students to native plant habitats and support curriculum standards.

Self-Guided Visits involve teachers utilizing the Garden's grounds to enhance their own activities.

What grade levels do you provide guided tours for?

Our tours are designed for Kindergarten-5th grade students. For 6th-12th grade classes, please contact us for more information.

What if my class includes students in more than one grade?

Our Guided School Tours offer two programs aimed at K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade. If your grades fall within the same range, their content will be the same. If your students have a greater range between them, they will be split into appropriate groups and receive the relevant program.

Where can I find information about the contents of the tour?

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade information is [linked here](#).

Information for Grades 3-5 is [linked here](#).

Can I request content to be tailored to what my class is learning?

We offer set programs based on your class's grade (Kindergarten-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade). You are welcome to add your learning objectives for your visit in the request form so that we are aware of what your class is learning. We will try our best to emphasize any content that aligns with your learning objectives.

When are Guided School Tours offered?

Guided School Tours are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from October to June. Registration opens in September.

How many students can I bring?

Guided School Tours accommodate classes ranging from 15 to 36 students. Please take a look at our pricing guide below to see how the number of students will affect your total price.

What if I have more than 36 students in my class?

If your group is larger than 36 students, please contact us to see if we can accommodate your group.

Can I combine classes for one tour date?

Yes, you can combine classes if the total number of students for the tour is 36 or less. If the combined total is more than 36 students, we recommend separating your classes into two tour dates. You will need to fill out a request form for each day you are planning to attend the Garden. Please keep in mind that we allow up to 5 chaperones per tour date, not per class.

How many chaperones can attend?

We allow a maximum of 5 chaperones per tour date. This helps limit distractions that can occur with too many chaperones. Furthermore, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is located in a rural, residential canyon and operates under a Conditional Use Permit, we are limited in how many total guests can be at the Garden at any given time.

Does a school aide count as a chaperone?

No, a school aide does not count as a chaperone. All necessary school staff, including instructional aides, 1:1 aides, and paralegals are not included in your chaperone count. When filling out the Guided School Tour request form, please include these individuals in your teacher count.

What if we need more chaperones to drive?

If your school uses private vehicles for transportation to the Garden and you require more chaperones, please note this in your request form.

Booking & Payment

How do I book a Guided School Visit?

Please fill out our [School Field Trip Request Form](#). From there, you will be contacted by a representative of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden who will confirm your visit and send an invoice.

What information do I need to know before booking?

- Possible dates that work for you, keeping in mind we only offer Guided School Tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will reach out if none of your options are available and try our best to find a suitable alternative.
- The total number of students, teacher(s), and chaperones
- How will you be arriving (bus or private vehicles/vans)
- Billing contact

How much does a field trip cost?

Number of Students	Non Title 1	Title 1
Up to 24	\$175	\$130
25-36	\$200	\$155

When and how do I pay?

Credit card payments are accepted over the phone or you can send in a check. Please note that payment is due in full one month before your tour date. To make payments, contact our Education Programs Coordinator at (805) 682-4726, ext. 102.

What is our cancellation policy?

A Guided School Tour must be canceled no later than 30 days prior to the tour date to receive a refund. All payments are final and non-refundable within 30 days of the tour date, barring cancellation by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden due to extenuating circumstances or natural disasters.

What if we need to reschedule due to the weather?

If tours need to be rescheduled due to inclement weather, we will work with you to reschedule your visit.

Do you offer discounts for Title 1 schools?

Title 1 schools receive a discounted rate for their guided tour. Please see the table above for exact pricing. In addition, limited bus reimbursements may be available depending on funding. Please contact us for more information.

How is the Garden impacted by Red Flag Warnings?

Because Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is located in a rural, residential canyon and operates under a Conditional Use Permit, we must close to the public in the event of a Red Flag Warning. If we are placed under Red Flag Warning during your visit, we will reach out to reschedule or refund your visit.

Visit Logistics

What time do we need to arrive?

If your school is located in Goleta or Santa Barbara, your tour will begin at 9:30 a.m. If you are located outside of this area, your tour will begin at 10 a.m. We recommend you arrive 5-10 minutes early. Tours run approximately one hour.

Where should we park?

Buses can drop students off at our Guest Entrance before exiting our parking lot and parking in the bulb out across Mission Canyon. Please see this visual for more information. For private vehicles, please park in our visitor parking lot on the west side of Mission Canyon Road.

Vehicles must be under 31' in length to turn into our parking lot. For safety reasons, we ask that group vehicles remain on site during the field trip.

How many cars can we bring?

Because Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is located in a rural, residential canyon and operates under a Conditional Use Permit, parking on site is extremely limited. We ask that you carpool and bring as few vehicles as possible.

Is there a place to buy food at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden?

We currently do not have a place to buy meals on site. We sell limited snacks and drinks at our gift shop.

Can we have lunch after our tour ends?

Yes, you are welcome to stay after your tour to enjoy lunch as long as you'd like. There are seating areas situated around the garden that you are free to use.

Ready to Book?

Fill out our [School Field Trip Request Form](#). Contact tours@sbbotanicgarden.org or call (805) 682-4726, ext. 102 with any more questions.