



Self-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 a Self-Guided School Visit?

A Self-Guided School Visit is an opportunity to visit the garden and explore at your own pace. Unlike Guided School Tours, Self-Guided School Visits are not led by a Nature Educator or docent. The only difference between a Self-Guided School Visits and regular admission is that we offer school groups a reduced admission rate. Self-Guided Visits are recommended for large groups or groups with various age levels in attendance.

Who qualifies for a Self-Guided School visit?

School groups or Youth Organizations who are visiting the Garden to support their learning objectives. Groups who are hosting classes for paid participants do not qualify.

What resources are available for our Self-Guided School Visits?

Please see our [Self-Guided Materials Packet](#) for teacher resources.

When are Self-Guided School Visits offered?

Self-Guided School Visits are offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout the school year. Please contact us to check availability for scheduling visits at any other time.

How many people can come on a Self-Guided School Visit?

We are able to accommodate groups of up to 40 people. If your group is larger, please contact us to see if we can accommodate your group.

How many chaperones can attend?

We do not limit the number of chaperones for a Self-Guided School Tour, though the maximum capacity for the entire group is 40. Every person on the tour will be charged admission.

Booking & Payment

How can I book a Self-Guided field trip?

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.

How much does a Self-Guided School Visit cost?

Student	Adult
\$7	\$12
Title 1 Pricing	
Student	Adult
\$4	\$6

When and how do I pay?

To be eligible for our Self-Guided School Tour admission rates, payment is required no later than two weeks before your visit. Credit card payments are accepted over the phone. If you must send a check, please note the check must be received no later than two weeks before your tour. To make payments, contact our Education Programs Coordinator at (805) 682-4726, ext. 102.

If some of our participants are Garden members or have admission passes, do they still have to pay?

Self-Guided Visit discounts apply for the entire group. Garden memberships and free admission passes are not accepted for Self-Guided Visits.

What is your cancellation policy?

All payments are final and non-refundable, barring cancellation by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden due to extenuating circumstances or natural disasters. We are unable to refund unused tickets. If you have already paid and must reschedule, please contact us immediately to determine an alternative date. Reschedules are not guaranteed.

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.

Can we reserve a space for our programming?

Self-Guided Visit rates only include admission. If you would like to reserve a space, please see our [Private Rentals & Photography](#) page on our website.

Visit Logistics

Where do 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 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.

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.