

# Homeschool Field Trips to the Arboretum

We are excited to have your homeschool group visit us here at the Arboretum! We have three field trip options during the school year to enhance a homeschool students' educational experience. These options include our **Self-Guided, Guided Plant and Guided History** field trips. **Guided field trips are for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students only.**

We require all groups to have a minimum number of 10 students to make a reservation, which qualifies your students free entry, Monday-Friday during the school year. August 15<sup>th</sup>-June 15<sup>th</sup>.

All groups, including homeschool self-guided and guided tours are required to have a minimum 1:10 ratio of adults to children for supervision purposes. Adult chaperones are admitted free of charge up to a ratio of 1 adult for every 5 students. Any adults over this ratio may enter at a cost of \$9.00. Students pre-K and up to 18 years old/12<sup>th</sup> grade are free with a reservation.

If your homeschool group cannot gather 10 students, you may not make a reservation. In these cases, we recommend visiting the Arboretum on **Free Tuesday**, which is the third Tuesday of every month.

## Guided Tours

The Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden's guided tours are led by highly trained docents who understand a child's curiosity, as well as the wonder and excitement of learning. The Arboretum is a living classroom and our guided tours are designed to enhance the learning experience by immersing students in science, nature, and history.

We understand that many homeschooling families have multiple children and that sometimes those children do not all fit into our regulated ages for guided tours (traditional ages for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade). However, we do require guided tours to adhere to that age range for the quality of the program and we do not allow siblings outside the age range to participate. If this is not possible for your group, please consider visiting the Arboretum on free Tuesday or for a self-guided tour. If younger or older children are coming the day of your tour, you must plan ahead to separate your group so that tour aged students go in one group and non-tour aged children go on a self-guided tour. Please call (626-821-5897) for clarification if necessary.

Listed below is some additional, important information:

- Reservations and a signed confirmation form (sent to you via email after registration) are required.
- We require a minimum number of 10 students within the 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade range to make a guided tour reservation.
- Docent led field trips are available October 1<sup>st</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>, for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.
- Tours begin promptly at 9:30 and last approximately 2 hours.
- The two-guided tours that are available are *Plants in Our World* and *Early California History*. More information can be found on the website under the learn tab.
- Also note that our guided field trips are limited to 62 or 72 students per day depending on the month, so space is limited.

## **Self-Guided Tour**

Self-guided tours of the Arboretum present a wonderful opportunity to enhance your classroom curriculum. With their teacher as a guide, students can explore science, history, art, or spend the day learning about nature.

Our self-guided field trips are very flexible and allow for exploration throughout the Arboretum Monday through Friday during our open hours 9:00am- 4:30pm. Self-guided field trips also allow for groups traveling farther distances to arrive at their convenience during our open hours (9:00am-4:30pm). We have a separate self-guided PDF online to help you lead and educate your students on the unique plant collections, wildlife, and gardening techniques used throughout the Arboretum.

Listed below are some additional, important details:

- Reservations and a signed confirmation form (sent to you following registration) are required for free student admission.
- Your group must all enter at the same time
- The Arboretum opens for self-guided tours at 9:00 am.
- Students pre-K - 12<sup>th</sup> grade qualify for self-guided tour reservations.

**To make a reservation, please see our Teachers and Schools webpage and there will be directions at the top of the page. All tours are scheduled online.**

Please be aware that our Self-Guided Field Trips are limited to a total of 300 students per day, so space is limited.

For additional information please contact Chris Orosz, School and Youth Programs Manager, [chris.orosz@arboretum.org](mailto:chris.orosz@arboretum.org) or 626.821.5897.