

Frequently Asked Questions

BGO Field Trips

Scheduling:

Q: What does a field trip consist of?

A: A field trip at the garden is 60-90 minutes containing general garden information while using the garden as a teaching tool to explore science. Depending on your type of field trip, subjects may cover vegetables, plant adaptations, life cycles, butterflies, pollination, native plants, and cool plant facts while enticing the senses and walking through the 12 gardens.

Q: How do I schedule a field trip?

A: You can schedule a field trip at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks by visiting the website, [Field Trips | Botanical Garden of the Ozarks \(bgozarks.org\)](https://www.bgozarks.org/field-trips), and filling out the Field Trip Request form. You can also email programs@bgozarks.org or call (479)750-2620.

Q: Will I receive a confirmation for my field trip?

A: A Botanical Garden representative will contact you to confirm your field trip. If you schedule a field trip through the website, you will receive an email confirmation from programs@bgozarks.org. The date you request in the Field Trip Request Form is not guaranteed.

Q: Is there a maximum capacity for a field trip?

A: 6 classes or about 130 students for a field trip is the garden's capacity. For smaller groups, there will be a tour guide leading the class around the 12 gardens. For larger groups, stations will be created so that the students rotate through spaces in the garden. Tour guides can conduct tours of a single garden, the greenhouse, butterfly house, or bird blind. Station field trips consist of short environmental science lessons or activities throughout the various gardens.

Q: How many teachers and chaperones are required?

A: We ask that 1 teacher and 1 chaperone stay with their class at all times. The garden will have tour guides and volunteers, however, 1 teacher and 1 chaperone must stay with their students throughout the entirety of the field trip. If there are multiple classes, at least 1 teacher and 1 chaperone should be with each class. Please do not leave a group of students unattended in the garden.

Q: What if my group has to reschedule or cancel due to inclement weather?

A: A Botanical Garden representative will contact you if weather is not favorable to discuss rescheduling or canceling. Light rain will not affect the field trip, however, if there is lightning the field trip will have to reschedule or cancel. The teacher should contact programs@bgozarks.org for any cancellations or rescheduling.

Q: Day of cancellations and no shows:

A: The teacher should contact programs@bgozarks.org for any cancellations. If you have scheduled a field trip and have to cancel the day of your field trip or are a no show, unfortunately, you will have to pay full price for your field trip.

Q: Can we see the Butterfly House?

A: Depending on the date and size of your field trip, you may be able to walk through the Butterfly House. If your field trip is scheduled during May through September, you will be able to see the butterflies. If your field trip is not scheduled during those months, we can include a butterfly lesson in your field trip, however, there will not be any butterflies active in the butterfly house.

Q: Do Homeschool Groups qualify for field trips?

A: Yes, the garden offers field trips to school groups, homeschool groups, boy scout and girl scouts groups, and special needs groups of either adults or children. This also includes transitional housing organizations for youths, after school programs, and alternative learning organizations.

Q: Is the garden handicap accessible?

A: There are paved paths throughout the garden along with dirt paths. There is one set of stairs with a ramp to bypass, as well as two wheelchairs on site. The garden has an audio tour as well as sensory friendly bags available for those who are sensory sensitive. The sensory bag is free to rent and includes sunglasses, fidget toys, and more. You will need a phone or table with headphones to access the audio tour.

Payment:

Q: How do we make payments?

A: The garden will accept cash, card or check before or upon arrival of your field trip. If you are paying upon arrival, the admission's window will take your payment. You will also receive an invoice through email before the date of your expected field trip. If your school requires a purchase order, email programs@bgozarks.org. Extra chaperones that are not included in the field trip will also pay at the admissions window.

Q: What is the pricing for a field trip?

A: The number of classes attending and the type of field trip requested will determine the price. Visit our website, [Field Trips | Botanical Garden of the Ozarks \(bgozarks.org\)](https://www.bgozarks.org/field-trips) to view the types of field trips offered and their prices.

Q: Are chaperones and teachers required to pay?

A: The number of classes attending the field trip will determine the amount of teachers and chaperones for the field trip. One teacher and one chaperone are included in the pricing of a field trip for one class ie. if there are 5 classes for the field trip, then 5 teachers and 5 chaperones are included. Extra chaperones and teachers will have to enter the garden at the general admission window for \$10. Teacher aids and paraprofessionals for students are not required to pay.

Q: Is it okay if a parent chaperone brings a sibling of the student attending the field trip?

A: A chaperone can bring a sibling to the field trip, however, they will have to enter the garden at the general admission window for \$10. If a chaperone is bringing a sibling, contact programs@bgozarks.org in order to accommodate the field trip.

Arrival:

Q: Where should buses park?

A: When you arrive at the gardens, it is best for the buses to park in the south parking lot to unload and load students there. Buses will scrape or get stuck if you enter the main entrance. The south parking lot is the open parking lot that is past the entrance of the botanical gardens. The buses should park up in the meadow parking lot south of the BGO parking lot, behind the new trail access parking lot. Buses should be on the grass. Everyone can walk the trail to the front of the gardens. You will receive an email with a map for parking. Bus drivers can wait on the bus or join in on the fun with the field trip at general admission for \$10. A Botanical Garden Representative will greet you at the gate.

Q: Where should we park for a small field trip if we don't have buses?

A: Smaller field trips that are not arriving in buses, can park in the Botanical Garden main entrance parking lot. A Botanical Garden Representative will greet you at the gate.

Q: Where should chaperones park?

A: Chaperones can park in the Botanical Garden main entrance parking lot. Chaperones will go straight to the garden's General Admission Window to check in.

Q: When should we arrive?

A: If you could arrive by the designated start time of your scheduled field trip, that would be great! Traffic and getting buses organized can take time, if you are running late, email programs@bgozarks.org or call (479)750-2620.

Q: What happens when we arrive?

A: Once you arrive at the garden, there will be a Botanical Garden Representative to greet you at the main entrance. They will guide you through the entrance, and provide you with a schedule of your field trip.

Q: Are there bathrooms?

A: There are bathrooms in the main building as well as water fountains. There will be time either at the beginning or end of your field trip for students to use the restroom. There are also porta potties in the back of the garden and out in the main entrance parking lot.

Q: What are our lunch options?

A: Veterans Park, [4451 N Vantage Dr, Fayetteville, Ar 72703](#), is a great place to stop for lunch before or after the field trip. It is near the gardens, there are two playgrounds, and multiple picnic tables. For smaller field trips, email programs@bgozarks.org about lunch in the garden. Smaller field trips can eat their snack or lunch in the garden after the field trip, however, we ask that you thoroughly clean up after, as we don't want any trash roaming the garden!

Q: What do we do when we are ready to leave?

A: Your guides for the field trip will walk you back to the main entrance at the end of your field trip, where the students can have a water and bathroom break before getting back on the bus.

Thank you for considering the garden, and we hope to see you soon!