



# School Visit Guide

## General Information

### Registration

- School programs at Garden in the Woods are available by advance reservation only, at least four weeks in advance of the date you would like come.
- Each school visit to the Garden is one hour long.
- Programs are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, mid-April to October.
- We can accommodate groups of 5-50 students.
- We require that each group provide 1 adult per every 10 students.
- To register fill out our [online request form](#).

### Payment

- The school program cost is \$8 per student. Adults receive complimentary admission.
- Payment can be made in advance if you are certain of the number of students. Once a payment has been received refunds cannot be made for students who are not able to make it the day of the program. You may pay by credit card (MasterCard or Visa) by calling 508-877-7630 x3303 or by mailing a check made out to Native Plant Trust to:

Native Plant Trust  
180 Hemenway Road  
Framingham, MA 01701

- If you would like to pay on the day off, please be ready to make the transaction in full when your bus arrives at the Garden. Payments will be accepted by credit card or check only.

### Changes and Cancellations

If you make a scheduling change, we will attempt to reschedule your visit within the school year. After the first scheduling change, a \$15 processing fee will be charged for each additional change.

### Pre and Post Visit Activities

We recommend that before your visit, that you please complete the pre-visit activity for your selected program. After your visit we recommend that you complete the post-visit activity. Incorporating these activities into your lesson plan will help facilitate learning and enhance the hands-on learning that students will experience at the Garden. These activities are included with your program and can be downloaded from our website on the [school programs](#) page.

## Before Arrival

Before your visit please complete the pre-activity and review this School Visit Guide. Also, be sure we have the contact information of your designated point person, who will be contacted on the day off if necessary. You provided this information when you filled out the registration form. Please let us know of any updates. Please divide your group into smaller groups of 10 students each with at least 1 adult chaperone per group.

## Arrival

Please arrive 15 minutes early so that you can unload your bus and use the restrooms. Your program will begin at its scheduled time. If you are more than 20 minutes late, we cannot guarantee that students will be able to have a full program. Please make every effort to be on time. If your bus is delayed please call 508-877-7630 x3303 or x3601 to let us know. Please review the driving directions before your visit.

## Inclement Weather

Programs run rain or shine. If you choose to reschedule, please call by 8:00 a.m. the morning off. While there is shelter available at the Education Picnic Pavilion, there are no indoor program facilities. Please have students dress appropriately for the weather (e.g., warm jacket, sunglasses, rain coat, etc.).

## Accessibility

The Garden's Education Center bathrooms are wheelchair accessible. The Garden's pathways are made of natural materials; the terrain is uneven, and too steep for most wheelchairs. If you have students in your group with mobility issues, we encourage you to sign up in advance for a cart tour. The cart can accommodate a maximum of 7 participants.

## Lunch

Eating is permitted at our outdoor, covered Picnic Pavilion. The Pavilion can accommodate approximately 65 people. Seating is open to the public and we are not able to reserve seats in advance.

# Directions

## Driving Directions

Garden in the Woods is located at: 180 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701. A 40-minute drive from Boston or Worcester. [Click here](#) for directions via Google Maps.

## School Buses

When you arrive at the Garden, please drive through the gate and straight back into the rear parking lot. **Do not turn left into the front parking lot; your bus will get stuck!** As you enter the rear lot, bear right and then loop around the lot so that your bus door is in front of the Education Center gate. Please do not unload your bus until you are greeted by a Teacher Naturalist or staff member. Once all passengers are unloaded, please exit the Garden by driving straight out through the gate and then taking a right onto the one-way Hemenway Road. Your bus may park at the bottom of the hill, if there is space, where Hemenway flattens out and meets the neighborhood street again. Buses are not allowed to park in the Garden during the tour. (See map on the following page.)



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I register my class for a program?

All school groups must register for a program four weeks advance of the date you wouldlike to come. Register a trip by filling out our [online request form](#). You will hear back 3 to4 business days after you fill out the form. Registrations are taken on a first-come, first- served basis.

### How many students can I bring?

Programs are available to groups of 5 to 50 children. We provide one Teacher Naturalist to every 10 students to provide the best experience for your students.

### Is there a place to have lunch?

Yes. Eating is permitted at our outdoor, covered Picnic Pavilion. The Pavilion can accommodate approximately 65 people. Seating is open to the public and we are notable to reserve seats in advance. There are no indoor group lunch facilities.

### Where does our school bus drop us off and pick us up?

In the rear parking lot. Please see the bus drop off directions above.

### **What if the forecast shows rain or snow on the day of my trip?**

Our programs run rain or shine. If you choose to reschedule, please call by 8:00 a.m. While there is shelter available at the Education Picnic Pavilion, there are no indoor program facilities. Please have students dress appropriately for the weather (e.g., warmjacket, sunglasses, rain coat, etc.).

### **What if I need to make a change, or cancel my trip?**

If you make a scheduling change, we will attempt to reschedule your visit within the school year. After the first scheduling change, a \$15 processing fee will be charged for each additional change. To reschedule please contact our public programs coordinator: 508-877-3658 x3303; [lschreier@newenglandwild.org](mailto:lschreier@newenglandwild.org)

### **We'd just like to walk around and do a self-guided tour. Do I need to register?**

All school groups' visits require a reservation. Please call us at 508-877-7630 x3601 to let us know that your group is coming for a self-guided visit.

### **How can you accommodate my special needs class?**

Our educational programs can be modified to fulfill the goals of each group. Please make note on our reservation form to tell us more about your group and how we can accommodate your students.

### **Who runs the program?**

Programs are led by our trained and committed teacher-naturalists. Teacher-naturalists will guide your students in hands on field investigations of Garden in Wood's plant life, diverse habitats, weather and climate, and history.

### **How should the students dress and what should they bring?**

Please have the children dress appropriately for all weather conditions. We recommend closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes or boots if it's raining. Open-toed shoes are not recommended. Please bring insect repellent. Consider bringing tick repellent as this is a wooded environment. The Garden may be buggy, as our trails meander through woods and wetlands. You may also want to ask children to bring water, hats, sunscreen, or a raincoat, depending on the weather. Name tags are recommended and will help us interact more personally with the children.

**We look forward to working with you to deliver a program that is enjoyable and meets your needs and expectations!**