

Procedures for...

Educational **TOURS** & School **PROGRAMS**



Preparing for your Botanical Garden Tour

The tours at the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden are aligned with the California State Standards and offer a perfect opportunity for hands-on learning. Use the enclosed Teacher's Guide for ideas on how to best prepare your students for the educational concepts to be taught on the tour. If your group is larger than 40 students, then students will be split into two smaller groups, each group getting an hour-long tour, so two hours will be necessary to plan ahead for. Arrange students to be in groups of 10.

Arriving for your Botanical Garden Tour

At Highway One and Dairy Creek Road your bus will turn into El Chorro Regional Park, and follow the road down towards the ball fields and park next to the restroom building. Unload your children at the Picnic Tables and organize your students into their groups of ten students for the tour. Someone from our staff will come over to meet you and escort your groups of ten over to the Amphitheatre for an orientation.

Before the Tour

Divide children into groups of 10 prior to arrival, with one adult chaperone per group. Adults are asked to help children be attentive to Docents and to act as role models. Please use nametags legible from a distance, as this helps our Docents. Please go over the **"Let It Be" Nature Rules** with your students in your classroom and remind them again before getting off of the buses.

"Let It Be" Rules: *(For your safety and for the safety of other living things)*

- **Stay on garden pathways. "Let It Be"**
- **Leave rocks and wood chips where they are. "Let It Be"**
- **Let the lizards and birds be. "Let It Be"**
- **Allow flowers to blossom on the plant. "Let It Be"**
- **Use quiet voices please, and remember to say "Thank You."**

During the Tour

Teachers and adult chaperones must remain with the students at all times. Docents depend on the teacher and adult chaperones to maintain order so they can focus on the educational program. Please re-emphasize the **"Let Nature Be"** rules during the tour. Have students visit the bathroom before or after the tour. An adult must accompany students to the bathroom facilities.

After the Tour

Please fill out an evaluation form immediately after the tour so we can get feedback on the effectiveness of our program. Your suggestions are valued as a means to improving our educational component. Thank you very much for your participation in your field trip to the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Please spread the word that we are available for tours to school groups. Thank you.

Important Notes

Multiple Classes:

If you are reserving tours for more than one classroom, we need all teacher's names and total numbers of students coming on the tour.

Special Needs:

Please let us know in advance about providing assistance if students do not speak English or have other special needs. At this time, we ask that schools provide translators or any other personal assistants for students. Please provide water bottles.

Grouping:

Please divide students into groups of ten and provide one adult chaperone for each group of ten. Provide a nametag for each student and adult.

RAIN CANCELLATION:

Please call the Garden at 805.541.1400x304 at least 12 hours in advance if you plan to cancel your tour because of rain. If you would like to reschedule, we will try to accommodate your group at a later date. We are open to hosting tours in light rain. Let us know what your plans are as early as possible.

Future Garden:

The non-profit *Friends of San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden* is dedicated to developing a 150-acre Mediterranean-themed botanical garden right here on the Central Coast. This first-class attraction will benefit the community and visitors with opportunities for education, recreation, and relaxation within a beautiful horticultural setting. Fundraising activities will be in high gear throughout the year toward accomplishing two goals: expanding the Garden, and expanding Children's Programs to reach more children in San Luis Obispo County.

We welcome any donations you or your school can make to the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Thank you very much.

Website:

Visit the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden at www.slobg.org for more information about our Garden, upcoming events and activities and links to other great horticultural websites. You can register for tours online by clicking the **Education** link. You can e-mail us at education@slobg.org to contact the Education Coordinator.

