

School Visit Guide



Thank you for registering for a field trip at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. During this guided program your students will learn about plants, animals, ecosystems and more. From gardens to trails, there is so much to discover in our outdoor classroom! Please read the following information to prepare for your visit.

Registration

Guided programs at Tower Hill Botanic Garden are available by advance registration only. We recommend that you book your programs at least one month in advance. Field trips are not offered during the months of December and January. All trips are *90 minutes in length* and are offered between 9 and 10:30am or 11 and 12:30pm. To register please contact the Youth Education Manager at 508.869.6111 or youtheducation@towerhillbg.org.

Payment

School programs are \$11 per student unless otherwise noted. Chaperones receive complimentary admission. Payment may be made in advance or on the day of the program. You may pay by credit card by calling 508.869.6111 ext. 124 or by mailing a check to:

Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Drive
P.O. Box 598
Boylston, MA 01505

Changes & Cancellations

Please contact youtheducation@towerhillbg.org or call 508.869.6111, as soon as possible if you would like to postpone, reschedule or cancel your program. A full refund will be made if the cancellation is requested at least two weeks in advance. Cancellations less than two weeks before the program date will forfeit the program fee (exceptions will be made if the cancellation is mutually agreed upon and due to inclement weather). If you make a scheduling change

we will attempt to reschedule your visit within the school year.

Before Arrival

We recommend that you complete the pre-visit activity for your selected program before your visit. These activities can be found on our website and are designed to enhance the hands-on learning your students will participate in during their visit. Please have students wear nametags and divide your classes into smaller groups of *no more than 15 students* with at least one chaperone per 10 students.

Upon Arrival

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to unload your bus and use the restrooms. Your program will begin at its scheduled time. If your bus is delayed please call 508.869.6111 ext. 132. If you are more than 20 minutes late, we cannot guarantee a full program. Buses should pull up to the bottom of the steps in front of our visitor center. Please gather the students by the large tree to the right of the Education Center door. A Teacher Naturalist will be there to greet your group. Buses should park in the far area of the parking lot during the program. Be sure to confirm your bus reservation and times in advance.

TOWER HILL
BOTANIC GARDEN

Accessibility

The formal gardens and education center are wheelchair accessible. The garden's trails are made of natural materials; the terrain is uneven and steep in certain areas. If you have students in your group with mobility issues, we encourage you to make note on your reservation form.

Lunch

Groups are welcome to arrive early or stay later and participate in self-guided activities or have lunch. Picnicking is allowed in any of the mowed lawn areas. We ask that you please bring trash bags and dispose of your trash offsite.

Inclement Weather

Programs are held rain or shine and will involve time outdoors, please have students dress appropriately. In case of severe weather, all programs can be adapted for an indoor lab experience. We follow the Boylston school schedule. If there is a cancellation due to snow we will work with you to reschedule your visit within the school year.

Garden Shop

If your group plans to visit the Gift Shop, please do so in small groups accompanied by an adult.

Directions

From Boston or East: Massachusetts Turnpike to Exit 11A for Route 495, route 495N to exit 25B for Route 290W. Follow toward Worcester. Take Exit 24, Church Street, Northborough/Boylston. Follow to Boylston, 3 miles. Entrance to Tower Hill is on right.

From Worcester: Route 290E to Exit 24, Church Street, Northborough/Boylston. Follow to Boylston, 3 miles. Entrance to Tower Hill is on right.

From Leominster area: Route 190S to Exit 5, Route 140S towards West Boylston. Turn left onto Route 70N. Continue through Boylston center. Turn right onto French Drive at flashing yellow light. Entrance to Tower Hill is on left, less than 0.1 mile.

We look forward to welcoming your students to Tower Hill Botanic Garden!

FAQs

How many students can I bring?

To ensure the best possible experience we limit group size to 60 students. We provide one Teacher Naturalist for every 10 to 15 students. If your group is larger than 60 students please contact the Youth Education Manager at youtheducation@towerhillbg.org or 508.869.6111 ext. 132 to schedule multiple visits.

Is there a place to have lunch?

Picnicking is permitted in any of the mowed lawn areas. We ask that you please bring trash bags and dispose of your trash offsite. Indoor space is limited and must be reserved in advance.

Do I need to register for a self-guided tour?

All school group visits require a registration. Please call us at 508.869.6111 ext. 132 to let us know your group will be visiting and to get more information on admission. Self-guided activities are available at our information desk or can be downloaded in advance from our website.

Who leads the programs?

Our programs are led by trained and experienced Teacher Naturalists. Our instructors will guide your students in hands-on field investigations of Tower Hill's plant and animal life, diverse habitats, and history.

How should students dress?

Programs are held rain or shine. We recommend closed-toed slip resistant shoes or boots in rain or snow. Please bring insect and tick repellent. The group should also bring water, hats, sunscreen, or raincoats depending on the weather. Name tags are recommended and help our Teacher Naturalists interact with and get to know your students.

How can you accommodate my special needs class?

Our Teacher Naturalists are experienced in working with students of all backgrounds and abilities and our programs can be modified to suit the needs of each group. Please make note on your reservation form to tell us more about your group and how we are able to accommodate your students.