Youth Education Program

of San Francisco Botanical Garden Society

Guided Walks for School Groups

Information Sheet

First Look at Plants Grades K–1
Experience the variety of plant colors, shapes, and textures. Learn about the basic parts of plants and their functions.

Flower Walk Grades 2–5
AVAILABLE SPRING ONLY
Discover how buds become flowers and flowers become fruit. Learn about the pollinators who help plants make seeds.

Plant Travelers Grades 2–5
AVAILABLE FALL ONLY
Wind, water, and animals are three ways plants disperse seeds. Explore the diversity of seed shape and structure.

Web of Life Grades 2–5
Learn about the interdependence of the plants and animals in the Botanical Garden's varied ecosystems.

The Redwood Trail Grades 3–5
Investigate the diversity of plants in the redwood forest. Explore the interrelationships of plants, animals, and their environment.

Native People, Native Plants Grades 3–5
Discover plants the indigenous peoples of California have used for food, medicine, clothing, entertainment, and shelter.

Special Needs Classes All Grades
We will gladly tailor a walk to your students' needs and abilities. Please apply through the regular lottery and provide whatever information is appropriate. We encourage all special needs classes to apply.

Planning for Your Visit

Docent led walks take place Tuesday through Friday and are offered each day at 10:15 (10:45 by special request). The walks range from 45 minutes to an hour and a half, depending on grade level. Walks are available year-round unless otherwise indicated, and all are free of charge.

Students will work in small groups with a docent. At least one adult per 8 children is required. Pre- and post-visit information will be sent along with your confirmation; please use it to help prepare your group to make the most of their field trip.

Registering for a walk

We will be accepting registration by mail or fax only. The registration period is November 12 through December 12 for Spring 2009 walks. All registrations received by the last day of the registration period will be entered into a lottery, and teachers will be notified of the results in mid-January.

Each teacher is eligible for one walk per year. Teachers who register for the fall but who do not get a walk date are eligible to reapply for the spring. All teachers, regardless of number of visits in earlier years, have an equal chance of obtaining a walk date.

Buses

At present, the SFUSD Transportation department requires that each free field trip bus carry at least two classes. Please remember to apply for a guided walk with a partner class if you must request a free SFUSD bus to get here. We encourage teachers who can use public transportation to apply singly. If you must have a SFUSD bus to get here and none are available, we have extremely limited resources available to pay for buses for a few classes.