



Visiting the Botanic Garden with Your Class or Group

Botanic Garden hours: The conservatories are open daily from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Admission is free, although donations are always appreciated. The Spring Bulb Show runs for two weeks beginning the first Saturday in March and the Fall Chrysanthemum Show runs for two weeks beginning the first Saturday in November. Show hours are from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM daily.

Group visits and guided tour reservations: We welcome group visits with advance reservations. Please call Pamela Dods at (413) 585-2742 (or e-mail: garden@smith.edu) at least two weeks in advance to schedule your visit. For guided tours, please call four weeks ahead. Our tours are led by trained volunteers and we need time to be able to schedule someone for you. When you call, we will need the following information from you: the number of people in your group, the date, time, length of your visit, your address and phone number, and any specific areas you wish to visit.

Tours: Tours are free for all non-profit groups, for-profit groups are charged \$50.00 per busload and we can only accommodate one bus (40 people) at a time. Tours are given by trained volunteer guides and are available weekdays as well as weekends. Due to the large crowds, **no tours are given during the Spring Bulb Show or Fall Chrysanthemum Show**. General tours of the conservatories last approximately 45 minutes to one hour and cover the highlights of our plant collection. You may wish to allow additional time for groups to look around on their own after the tour. We offer tours designed for school groups and tours on special topics. In addition to our general tours of the conservatories, we also offer specialized tours, which can be tailored to your group.

If your group arrives late, your tour may be shortened since our volunteer guides may not be able to stay later than originally planned.

Group size: We can generally accommodate 12-15 people per guide. Due to the size of the greenhouses and walkways, it is difficult for larger groups to see and hear properly. We can, however, divide up a larger group between two guides. We cannot accommodate groups larger than 40 at any one time. If your group is larger than 40, please consider splitting the group and sending half to another location, and then switching. The Smith College Art Museum is once again offering tours for school groups, call (413) 585-3109. Other options are the Northampton Historical Society, (413) 584-6011, and A 2 Z Science & Nature Store, (413) 586-1611.

Chaperones: For school and children's groups, we require:

- 1 Adult for every 5 students ages 4-6
- 1 Adult for every 7 students ages 7-10
- 1 Adult for every 10 students over the age of 10

Chaperones should be familiar with the Botanic Garden rules, and we expect their assistance in reminding students of the rules and maintaining discipline. **Students must be well supervised at all times.** Disruptive groups will not be invited back for return visits.

Please have students wear nametags. We have found it to be very helpful if guides can address students by name. If you don't have nametags, we will take a few minutes at the beginning of the tour to write up tags for everyone.

Changing Special Exhibitions – Church Exhibition Gallery: Check on our events web page – <http://www.smith.edu/garden/Home/events.html> – for the current exhibition on display.

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Botanic Garden rules and safety: Please make your group aware of the rules in advance and ask the chaperones to help maintain order and ensure that the rules are enforced. The Botanic Garden is a living plant museum. **Please have your group maintain a quiet and orderly atmosphere during their tour.**

We request that visitors do not touch the plants in the conservatory or outside gardens, do not run in the greenhouses, do not bring food or drink into the greenhouses, and do not pick up anything from the floor of the greenhouses. Some people may have allergies or sensitivities to particular plants.

Please be aware of anyone in your group who has a history of sensitivity to plants, or to a heavily humid, warm atmosphere. This may be a problem for someone with asthma or other respiratory problems or with a heart condition.

Please watch your step as floors may be wet and slippery and there may be hoses or other materials across walkways.

Preparing for your visit: We offer a booklet for sale, *Celebrating a Century: The Botanic Garden of Smith College*, which describes the Botanic Garden and the conservatories and what you will see in them as well as gives some of its history. That is available for \$2.00.

Website: <http://www.smith.edu/garden> We guarantee that you will learn something new about the Botanic Garden!

Directions from I-91: From the south, take the first Northampton exit (#18). At the light at the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Route 5 and follow into Northampton to Route 9 (Main Street). Turn left and follow to College Lane (Sign: Main Entrance Smith College), left onto College Lane and the Botanic Garden will be ahead on your left. From the north, take exit #20 and go straight on King Street to Route 9 (Main Street - the Hotel Northampton will be on your right). Take a right onto Main Street and follow directions above.

Parking: We can accommodate groups that arrive in a single large tour bus or in smaller vehicles (unfortunately, we cannot accommodate larger groups or groups arriving in more than one tour bus at any one time).

Buses or vans may park temporarily to discharge passengers in front of Lyman Plant House on College Lane. Longer term parking for buses is at the stables parking lot — down to the end of College Lane, right onto Route 66, and left into the stables lot.

There is visitor parking for two cars in front of the Lyman Plant House, plus one handicapped parking space, although these spaces are frequently filled. Other **parking is available on Elm Street, but you should allow 15-20 minutes to find a place.** Campus parking lots are available for public use on weekends and evenings only. The Smith parking lot on West Street also has spaces for visitors.

Accessibility: There is a handicapped parking space. We have two accessible entrances and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. All but one of the greenhouses is wheelchair accessible. Please contact us for the best wheelchair routes through the greenhouses. For other special needs please call in advance.

Lunch: Large groups can be accommodated at the Wiggins Tavern at the Hotel Northampton and the Green Street Café may make special luncheon arrangements for groups. For small groups there are many good restaurants downtown, about five to ten minutes walking distance.

In good weather, the campus lawns are available for brown bag lunches, **but picnicking is NOT permitted in the Systematics Garden, Rock Garden, Capen Garden, the Presidents House Gardens or the Japanese Garden.** Please be sure to collect all your trash and take it with you. Thank you!