Visiting the Botanic Garden with Your Group

Self-Guided Visits and Guided Tour Reservations:
- Advance reservations are required for all groups of ten or more people.
- **Self-Guided Visits** require at least two weeks advance booking.
- **Guided Tours** require at least four weeks advance booking.
- The Lyman Plant House opens to groups at 9:00 am, the building closes promptly at 4:00 pm.
- Please use our online form to request a date and time: [https://www.smith.edu/garden/visit/group-visits-guided-tours/request-a-tour-or-visit*](https://www.smith.edu/garden/visit/group-visits-guided-tours/request-a-tour-or-visit*).
- Let us know about any special needs when booking a visit or guided tour.

*All requests are processed during regular business hours and are handled on a first come first served basis.

**Guided Tours:**
- Fees:
  - For-profit tour groups, commercial bus tours, and any group where individuals pay to participate, are charged a fee.
  - Other groups are asked to make a donation.

**Tour Availability:**
- Weekdays and weekends
- Guided Tours are **NOT** available during the following events:
  - Spring Bulb Show – Early March
  - Fall Chrysanthemum – Early November
  - Commencement through Reunion – mid May
- Tours last approximately one hour and are led by trained community volunteers, if your group arrives late, your tour may be shortened.
- Tours of the conservatories include the highlights of our plant collection or can be tailored to a group’s interest or area of study. Tours of the arboretum or outside gardens are also available.
- Groups can allow additional time to look around and take pictures on their own after their tour.

**Group Size:**
- Groups are limited to 40 people at any one time.
- Groups larger than 40 can split, sending half to another location, and then switching. The Smith College Art Museum offers tours for groups. Request a visit online: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QJYNJ6L](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QJYNJ6L) or call (413) 585-2781 or email: museduc@smith.edu.
- Groups are divided into 10 - 12 people per guide.

**Chaperones are required for groups of ten or more children:**
1 Adult for every 5 children ages 4-6
1 Adult for every 7 children ages 7-10
1 Adult for every 10 children over the age of 10

Minors must be supervised at all times. Chaperones should be familiar with the Botanic Garden rules (on next page.) Their assistance in maintaining order is greatly appreciated.
Botanic Garden rules and safety: The Botanic Garden is a living museum for plants. We hope your group enjoys its visit and learns something new about the plant world. Out of respect for the collections and for the safety of you group please be familiar with and abide by the following:

We request that visitors:
- do not touch the plants in the conservatory or outside gardens or pick up anything from the floor of the greenhouses — some people may unknowingly have allergies or sensitivities to particular plants
- do not run in the greenhouses — floors may be wet and slippery; there may be hoses or other materials across walkways
- do not bring food or drink into the greenhouses
- stay on paths/walkways in greenhouses and outside gardens
- do not climb any of the campus trees
- during guided tours, please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices

*People with respiratory or heart problems should be aware that some of the greenhouses are very warm and highly humid.*

Preparing for your visit:
- Please visit our website — [http://www.smith.edu/garden](http://www.smith.edu/garden) Our Visit page has links to group visit information. We guarantee that you’ll learn something new!
- Church Exhibition Gallery, Lyman Plant House: Check our web page for the current exhibition on display – [https://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits](https://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits)

Directions from I-91: - Lyman Plant House. 16 College Lane, Northampton, Ma. 01063
- **From the south:** take Northampton exit #18. At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Rt. 5 proceed to the intersection of Rts. 5 & 9. Turn left onto Main St., Rt. 9, continue through Northampton center. Turn left onto College Lane (Main Entrance to Smith College across from Helen Hills Hills Chapel). The Lyman Plant House is on the left across from Paradise Pond.
- **From the north:** take exit #20 and go straight on King Street to Rt. 9 (Main Street - the Hotel Northampton will be on your right). Take a right onto Main Street and follow directions above.

Parking:
- Plan on 15-20 minutes to find a parking spot. Be prepared for metered parking.
- There is no parking on College Lane.
- There are two visitor and one handicapped spaces for cars in front of the Lyman Plant House.
- Buses or vans may park temporarily in front of the Lyman Plant House to discharge passengers.
- Long term parking for buses is at the riding stables parking lot — down to the end of College Lane, right onto West St. (Rt. 66), and left into the stables lot. A bus parking map is included in your tour info packet.
- Parking is also available on Elm St., the Smith parking garage on West St., and on Green St (metered parking.) Parking map: [http://www.smith.edu/campuspolice/docs/ParkingMap-Letter.pdf](http://www.smith.edu/campuspolice/docs/ParkingMap-Letter.pdf)
- Campus permit lots are available for public use on weekends.

Accessibility: There is a handicapped parking space in front of the Lyman Plant House. We have two accessible entrances and accessible bathrooms. All but one of the greenhouses is accessible.

Lunch:
- Unfortunately, we do not provide any indoor areas to eat lunch.
- The campus lawns are available for brown bag lunches. There are no trash receptacles on campus, please pick-up and take your trash with you. Thank you!
- An indoor space should be reserved in case of bad weather. Contact the Campus Center at: 413-585-2639
- Picnicking is NOT permitted in any of the gardens on campus.
- School groups who wish to eat at the Campus Center Cafe must alert the Cafe office: 413-585-2332.
- Cafe. Menus are available at [www.smith.edu/campuscenter](http://www.smith.edu/campuscenter)