

Botanic Gardens Schools Education – Teacher Information



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What to tell children prior to their visit

Before your visit please remind your group that:

- Gardens are peaceful places for people to relax and enjoy.
- Walking slowly and talking quietly ensures everyone including the animals will enjoy the gardens.
- Plants are fragile, touch them gently.
- Flowers, leaves, bark, seeds etc. growing on plants or lying on the ground are there for all to enjoy. When you have finished with plant material found on the ground always return it to the garden.
- Keeping to paths and not walking on beds or borders avoids damage to plants.
- Please do not feed wildlife such as the ducks.

Bus and car parking

Please discuss bus drop off arrangements with your bus company prior to the event. Bus parking in the vicinity of the Botanic Gardens is not available. A bus 'Drop Off' zone is available on Plane Tree Drive between the Botanic Gardens and the Zoo. Buses may stand here for 10 minutes. Other options include the bus drop off zones on Hackney Road - there is one in front of the Goodman Building and another directly north of the Plane Tree Drive entrance, adjacent to Botanic Park. Please note for safety reasons, there is strictly no drop off at the Zebra Crossings on Plane Tree Drive. Bus parking is available at

nearby Torrens Parade Ground. To make a booking (preferably a week in advance) contact the Building Manager: 8203 9855.

There are car parks both to the north and south of the Goodman Building and also several car spaces adjacent to Botanic Park.

Arrival and orientation

Give yourself plenty of time to arrive – due to its close proximity to the city there can be a lot of traffic around Adelaide Botanic Garden. Arriving early also allows the children a chance to have a snack and a toilet break before the excursion officially starts.

Please also familiarise yourself with the map which should help you locate toilets and other facilities.

Your booking confirmation will provide you with a meeting point for educator led sessions. Please be ready to start these on time.

Unfortunately, if educator led classes start later than arranged, we cannot guarantee to finish later due to other sessions or commitments we may have.

Class groups and supervision

Remember there are a maximum of 30 students for educator led programs. Bring enough adults to ensure student safety. For the best quality experience for the children and highest safety standards, the Department for Education has recommended the following ratios:

- Kindy to Year 2 1:6
- Year 3 Year 7 1:10
- Year 8 to Year 12 1:15

These ratios exclude the teacher in charge or the responsible person in a preschool setting.

These ratios may change slightly as schools and pre-schools will also be guided by their own Risk Assessment procedures and Excursion policies.

Please let the attending adults know they will have an active and important role in supporting the learning activities and keeping an eye on your children throughout the session.

Risk Management Considerations

- Water: The garden has a number of open water bodies and requires close supervision by teachers and supervising adults.
- See above for Department for Education recommended ratios of adults to students
- Weather: Excursions at the Adelaide Botanic Garden are outdoors so sun protection is required, insect repellent at certain times of the year is recommended. Light showers are not an issue in the gardens and at times enhance the experience. There are a number of sheltered areas throughout the garden and raincoats are preferred to umbrellas.
- Washing: After walking in the wetlands or handling plant material hands should be thoroughly washed particularly before eating.
- Toilets: There are 5 groups of public toilets across the Garden as indicated on the map.

The weather

For days with heavy rain forecast, consider cancelling and rescheduling for another day. You can do this 48 hours prior to the excursion by calling 8222 9343. For only moderately rainy days, raincoats with hoods are well suited.

In the interests of safety, the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South Australia reserve the right to cancel visits should the weather be 36 degrees and over. We are more than happy to reschedule your visit to another suitable day should this occur.

Clothing and Footwear

Adelaide Botanic Garden is an outdoor, living environment. For children's safety, comfort and appropriateness to the activities, we recommend they wear comfortable clothing (many school sports uniforms suit this) that they can get active in. Also, closed shoes are a must. If light rain or cold weather is expected please ask your students to wear waterproof jackets, beanies, etc.

First Aid

Please bring along your own First Aid Kit in case of accidents. Please ensure children with asthma have their asthma plans and asthma first aid medication on hand as pollens and grass are known to cause allergies and/or asthma exacerbations.

Communication on the day

Please keep the mobile phone that you originally registered your class with on you at all times during the day in case we need to contact you for any reason.

Places to visit

We hope your school visit to the Garden is a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for your students. Please refer to the map for toilets, kiosk, entrance gates and shelters. Botanic Park is an ideal place for lunch. Opening times: (all sections of the garden are free entry)

Museum of Economic Botany
10am – 4pm Wednesday - Sunday
Palm House, Simpson House,
Bicentennial Conservatory and
Amazon Waterlily Pavilion
10am – 4pm Everyday

Need help?

For further information regarding our school programs and events please contact the Education Team:

P: 8222 9343

E: dewbgschools@sa.gov.au

www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au