

# Field Trip Guide



**BOTANICA**  
W I C H I T A

## Reservations

**Kristina Niles 316-264-0448 ext. 112**

## Hours

Monday – Saturday 9 – 5

Extended: April – October Tuesday/Thursday 9 – 8, Sundays 1 – 5

## Before You Arrive

Please schedule your trip as far in advance as possible, dates do become full. We will send you a confirmation email approximately one week in advance. If you need to cancel, please let us know one week in advance to allow time for accommodating other groups.

**Please collect all money from students and chaperones before you arrive**, to expedite your check-in. Don't make the kids wait to get inside to enjoy the gardens! **Upon arrival, line students up to ONE SIDE of main entry walkway (please leave room for other guests and gardener carts to pass), and send one staff member inside to pay at the Admissions counter.** You may pay with cash, check or card, and a receipt will be provided. Please let us know if you require an invoice be mailed to your organization prior to your visit. Make sure that all participants come dressed to be outside in the weather! When appropriate, wear rain gear, hats, sunblock, and tennis shoes are always encouraged. **We can never guarantee an indoor location during your visit**, so come prepared! Please advise all adult chaperones as well. Have students clearly mark all items such as water bottles; lost items will be taken to the lobby.

## Arrival

**ALL SCHOOL GROUPS MUST ENTER AT OUR MAIN GATE ENTRANCE OFF MURDOCK/AMIDON.** Busses will pull up to the entrance sidewalk for unloading, then if staying must park in the back of the lot. We recommend that the teacher's cell phone number be given to any family members who will not arrive with the group, in order to locate each other in the gardens at arrival.

Botanica does not supply paper maps but adults may access the interactive garden map on our website: <https://botanica.org/>

Teachers may download our Field Journal, or let us know if you want Botanica to provide them. If pre-purchased with your reservation, carousel tokens will be given at admissions.

## Lunch

Many groups plan to eat lunch on our outdoor terrace tables near the main building. Because all indoor areas are rental venues, we cannot guarantee an inside eating area in inclement or hot weather. If you bring lunches in coolers, staff will direct you to the cooler parking area on the upper terrace. Please notify us when you make your reservation if the district will be delivering boxed lunches. Boxed lunch coolers will also be parked on the upper terrace.

**Sack Lunches:** Bring in your coolers with sack lunches at arrival. The "lunch cooler parking lot" is on the upper terrace, where the black metal tables sit. Botanica will provide trash and recycling receptacles. Water fountains are located inside the main lobby, outside in the Children's Garden and inside the carousel building.

## Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the main lobby, across from the Children's Garden Meadow, in the Party Barn inside the Downing Children's Garden and inside the Carousel Building. First Aid kits are available in the lobby and in the Party Barn.

## Garden Exploration

The Downing Children's Garden and other gardens offer hours of enjoyment with a variety of experiences. If you have never visited Botanica before, please consider scheduling a Preview Tour, to help you and your students get the most from your visit. Be aware at all times that you and your students will be sharing the gardens with other guests of all ages, wildlife, gardeners, volunteers and staff. Please remind your students to be respectful, and to follow the garden rules posted at the entrance to the Children's Garden. The model trains will usually be running during your visit, and the Butterfly House is open from June through September. Don't forget to visit the Chinese Garden, which is accessible through the main building. Our small non-lending Children's Library is located inside the main lobby, behind the Garden Café. **Don't spend all of your time in the Children's Garden; we are constantly adding things to do and see throughout the gardens!** Be sure to visit walk the gardens, explore the Bird Garden, roll down the Grand Lawn slope, climb the Troll Hill and more!

## The Downing Children's Garden

The DCG was created to provide enjoyable outdoor experiences for children of all ages. Water may be hand-pumped to fill watering cans, imaginary play keeps children busy in Granny's farmhouse (no water in the farmhouse, please!), fruits and vegetables are always growing, and the Musical Maze fills the gardens with song. Guests can build sand castles, dangle their feet in the Salamander stream, meet the fairies in the old tree stump, climb the caterpillar or lady bugs in the Enchanted Glen and climb down from the treehouse through the monster tree's mouth. Adult chaperones are expected to accompany children throughout their visit, to help children enjoy the experience and stay safe. Water features are usually turned on sometime in late May.

## Lost Child

If a child becomes separated from the group, all staff will be notified. A found child will be escorted by staff or volunteers to the main building lobby area.

## Severe Weather

Your Botanica visit is an outdoor experience. Please advise all participants to come dressed for the weather and be prepared to be outside for the duration of your trip. Sunblock, hats, comfortable walking shoes, rain gear when appropriate will make your visit more comfortable and enjoyable. Botanica has no severe weather shelter on-site; guests may use shelters at Sims Golf Course or the Wichita Art Museum. In the event of severe weather, a staff member will be on hand to direct you and your students to shelter.

## Leaving the Gardens

When it is time to depart, gather your group on the upper terrace. If the gate near front lobby is unlocked you can exit there out the front gate directly to your bus. If not possible, please have your students walk quietly through the main lobby and exit the front doors. We hope you and your students enjoyed your visit to the gardens!