

MARIE
SELBY
BOTANICAL
GARDENS®

We look forward to hosting you in The Gardens! We hope your group will enjoy a meaningful learning experience, and a day surrounded by the beauty of The Gardens. Please review this information with your families, and make copies for as needed. With your help, we can protect The Gardens, and provide a pleasant experience to all visitors.

Get Ready for Your Visit:

Related lesson plans and teacher resources are available upon request by contacting tcalla@selby.org. We strongly encourage pre-visit preparations to support the educational experience of a Gardens visit.

Please be sure to go over **Garden Etiquette** with your families prior to arrival. This is crucial to ensure a positive experience for all.

Garden Etiquette

- Please do not touch the plants, or collect leaves, fruits, flowers, etc. Selby Gardens contains many exotic tropical plants, some of which are toxic or spiny, and others that may be hurt by touching them. As well, collecting things, even when on the ground, can cause unwanted impacts to our Gardens, especially when multiplied by lots of other people who wish to collect the same things. If students see something unique or beautiful, consider taking pictures, drawing, or writing about it instead!
- Please do not reach into the koi pond. Oils, bacteria, and other residues on our hands can make our beloved fish sick!
- Please **walk** on the sidewalks, and do not go into flower beds or planted areas. You may run on the Great Lawn or explore the roots of the Moreton Bay Fig, but otherwise, stick to the sidewalks.
- Groups should stay together so that nobody gets hurt or lost.
- If you will be visiting the Kids Corner or Children's Rainforest during your visit, *please put everything away* when you have finished using it, and keep snacks and drinks outside.

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Field Trip FAQs

Do we need to pre-register for a field trip?

Yes, an advance booking is required. School group rates apply only to groups of 10 or more students that have been pre-booked through the Education Department. To secure a date that works for your group, we encourage you to schedule as far in advance as possible.

Will we have a guided tour?

In order to best accommodate a wide ranges of ages and to meet your family's unique needs, interests, and curricular goals, homeschool field trips are self-guided experiences.

How much does it cost per student?

School group rates are \$7.00 per student. Please note group rates apply to groups of 10 or more students.

Is there a fee for adults?

1 adult per 5 students is free. Additional adults (up to 1 adult per student) are \$10.00 each. Adults beyond the 1:1 ratio are charged regular admission.

How many adults do we need?

We require a minimum of 1 adult per 5 students.

Is there a fee for younger siblings who come along?

Children aged 3 and younger are admitted free to the Gardens. All children aged 4 and older are considered students and will be charged the student rate for group visits.

Can families use their Selby memberships for free or discounted admission?

Sure! They will not be counted as part of the group for group pricing, however. Group rates are applied to a minimum of 10 students.

What kinds of payments do you accept?

We accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards. Please note that all members of a group must be included in a single payment.

Our group is smaller than the minimum of 10 students - what should we do?

For groups smaller than 10 students, school group rates do not apply, and families will be charged regular admission. We recommend purchasing family memberships for small homeschool groups, or individual homeschooling families.

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Where do we go when we arrive at Selby Gardens?

Selby staff or volunteers will meet the group in front of our Welcome Center, which is at the South end of Palm Ave. The Welcome Center is the building with the green awning on the West side of the street.

What time do we need to arrive?

Check-in is from 9:45 a.m. - 10 a.m. *Please ensure the whole group arrives at this time.* Our staff and volunteers are on fixed schedules and cannot wait for late arrivals. Late arrivals will not be considered part of the group, and will pay regular admission prices. As well, if late arrivals bring your group below the minimum of 10 students, regular admission prices will apply to everyone.

What are our lunch options?

You may purchase lunch items from the Selby House Cafe. For families who prefer to bring their own lunches, there are 7 picnic tables overlooking Hudson Bayou, adjacent to the parking area. Please be prepared to store bagged lunches in your vehicles, as outside food is not permitted.

What is the field trip rainy day policy?

Selby Gardens is open rain or shine. (We may, however, close the Gardens temporarily if severe weather such as lightning or tornadoes are nearby) Please dress for the outdoors! If you prefer to cancel in the case of inclement weather, we will do our best to reschedule you, but cannot guarantee a booking. There is no cancellation fee.

Change of plans? Other questions or concerns? Please contact Tracy Calla, Manager of School and Family Programs as soon as possible at tcalla@selby.org, or 941-366-5731 ext 273.

Enjoy your Gardens exploration! Thank you for visiting!