Field Trips to Governors Island Teaching Garden
Frequently Asked Questions

Scheduling a Field Trip

I submitted a field trip request on Explorable Places, but it's not confirmed. When will my trip request be confirmed?

Please allow at least 3 business days for the Education Coordinator to review your field trip request. Be sure to review our **policies** before registering for a field trip to ensure your field trip will be confirmed.

When can I submit a field trip request for next season?

- Spring Field Trips (April 18th-June 28th): Registration for Title I and DPHO neighborhood schools and organizations opens Thursday, March 15th. Registration for all other schools opens Wednesday, March 21st.
- Summer Field Trips (July 3rd-August 30th): Registration for Title I and DPHO neighborhood schools and organizations opens Monday, May 21st. Registration for all other schools and camps opens Monday, May 28th.
- Fall Field Trips (September 4th-November 8th): Registration for Title I and DPHO neighborhood schools and organizations opens Monday, August 13th. Registration for all other schools and organizations opens Monday, August 20th.

Transportation

What time is the departure and return ferry for the 10am trip and 11am trip?

The field trip times refer to the time the ferry departs from Manhattan. Our 10am field trip slot is for trips departing on the 10am ferry and returning on the 12:30pm ferry. Our 11am field trip slot is for trips departing on the 11am ferry and returning on the 1:30pm ferry.

What is the closest subway stop to the ferry?

- South Ferry (1) – 5 minute walk
- Whitehall (N, R) – 5 minute walk
- Bowling Green (4, 5) – 10 minute walk

Do I need to purchase ferry tickets for my class?

You don't need to purchase ferry tickets for your class. Your ferry ride is included in your field trip. Please check in at the security desk with the name of your school.

Can my class travel by DOE bus to the 11am field trip?

Classes may travel by DOE bus to the ferry only if they are scheduled in a 10am slot. The 11am field trip departs Governors Island at 1:30pm, which is too late for DOE buses to return to school. To travel by bus for a 10am field trip, schools must be within a 25 minute drive from the ferry at 10 South St. Please note that buses may not take FDR drive or the Brooklyn Bridge to the ferry, which can impact travel times.

Is there a ferry from Brooklyn?

The ferry to/from Brooklyn runs only on the weekends when Governors Island is open to the public. Field trips must take the Manhattan ferry, which is located in the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South St.

Can my class arrive early or stay on Governors Island after our field trip?

When Governors Island is open to the public (May 1st- October 31st, 2018), classes are permitted to visit the rest of the island before or after your scheduled field trip. Please let the Education Coordinator know if you are arriving early or staying on the island after your field trip. The ferry schedule for later departures can be found here.

Logistics

What is the structure of our field trip?

A detailed itinerary of 10am and 11am field trips can be found in the **policies form** on our website.

When and where will my students eat lunch? Do you provide lunch?

Your field trip includes approximately 25 minutes for lunch. 10am field trips eat lunch after programming and 11am field trips eat lunch before programming. Classes eat lunch at picnic tables in the garden. Students and adults must bring their own lunches as we don't provide lunch.

What will my students do?

Your students will be broken into smaller groups and rotate through 3-4 activity stations based on the topic preferences you indicated during registration, seasonal garden needs, and staff availability. These lessons include a farm tour, cooking/tasting activity, planting or farm work activity, and possibly fourth lesson like a compost exploration. For a description of lesson topics, click **here**.

Will another class be at the garden at the same time as my class?

We occasionally schedule two smaller classes at the same time, but your students will be kept separate from the other class during programming.

Is there a restroom at the garden?

There are two portable toilets at the garden. There are full restrooms in the Battery Maritime Building, on the second floor of the ferry, and in the building next to the ferry on Governors Island. *We strongly suggest having your students use the restrooms before getting on the ferry to Governors Island or on the way back to Manhattan so it doesn't cut into your programming time in the garden.*

Will I be able to charge my phone at the garden?

There is no electricity (including air conditioning and heat) at the garden. You may find outlets to charge your phone on the ferry or in the buildings near the ferry.

Policies

Your maximum for the 10am trip is 34 students, but for the 11am trip it's 40. Can I bring 40 students at 10am?

No, unfortunately we can only accommodate classes of 34 students at 10am. We have an additional educator for the 11am program and can have more students in that later slot.

May I bring 1 chaperone for every 4 students? Does the number of adults include the teacher?

Generally, no more than 1 adult for every 5 students is allowed to attend a field trip. This 5:1 student-to-adult ratio ensures there are adequate adults for travel and behavior management but not too many to distract from learning in the garden. The number of adults includes the teacher and chaperones. Exceptions are made for classes with special needs and on a case-by-case basis.

What is expected of teachers and chaperones on the field trip?

Teachers and chaperones are asked only to assist with behavior management as needed. We kindly request that adults not participate in lessons and activities as the field trip is intended for the students' learning.

What do I do if rain is predicted for my visit or if it's raining the morning of?

The Education Coordinator will be in touch the day before your field trip if inclement weather is in the forecast. Please see our **policies form** for more details about our weather policy.

Curriculum

What should I teach my students before the field trip?

It's not necessary for students to have any prior knowledge before attending a field trip to the Teaching Garden. Our lessons are designed based on NYC's K-12 standards, assuming limited prior knowledge and gardening experience. If your students have extensive knowledge of a topic to be covered on the field trip, please let the Education Coordinator know so garden lessons can be planned accordingly.

Do you have lesson plans or materials that I can share with my students before the trip?

Unfortunately we don't have materials to share with teachers prior to their visit at this time. Our lesson descriptions can be found here.

Donations

Where do I send my check?

Checks can be made out to GrowNYC with "Governors Island Teaching Garden" in the notes and mailed to:

Attn: Priscilla Rosado
Governors Island Teaching Garden
GrowNYC
100 Gold St. Suite 3300
New York, NY 10038

Can you provide an invoice so I can request money from my school for the field trip?

Yes—to request an invoice please email the Education Coordinator with whom you booked your trip.