Visiting the Botanic Garden with Your Class or Group

**Botanic Garden General Hours:**
- Lyman Plant House & Conservatory — 8:30 am to 4:00 pm daily
- Campus arboretum and gardens — Open daily year-round.
- Spring Bulb Show and Fall Chrysanthemum Show – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily

**Self-Guided Visits and Guided Tour Reservations:**
- Groups of ten or more people are welcome with advance reservations.
- The Lyman Plant House opens to groups of ten or more at 9:00 am
- Please call (413) 585-2742 during regular business hours; M–F 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, email: garden@smith.edu or use our online form: [http://www.smith.edu/garden/Home/tourform.html](http://www.smith.edu/garden/Home/tourform.html)
- **Self-Guided Visits** require at least two weeks advance booking.
- **Guided Tours** led by trained community volunteers require at least four weeks advance booking.

**Guided Tours:**
- Non-profit groups: Donations are gratefully accepted.
- For-profit groups: $50.00 per bus (we can only accommodate one bus, 40 people, at a time.)
- Tours are available weekdays as well as weekends.
- **Guided Tours** are NOT offered during the following events:
  - Spring Bulb Show – Early March
  - Fall Chrysanthemum – Early November
  - Commencement through Reunion – mid May
- General tours of the conservatories last approximately one hour and cover the highlights of our plant collection. We also offer tours which can be tailored to a group’s interest or area of study.
- Groups may wish to allow additional time to look around on their own after the tour.
- If your group arrives late, your tour may be shortened as volunteer guides may not be able to stay longer than originally planned.
- The Lyman Plant House has two wheelchair accessible entrances, and all but one of the greenhouses is accessible. Let us know about any special needs when visiting or booking your tour.

**Group size:**
- We can accommodate groups up to 40 people at any one time.
- Groups larger than 40 can split up, sending half to another location, and then switching.
- The Smith College Art Museum offers tours for school groups, call (413) 585-2781 or email museduc@smith.edu.
- We can accommodate 12–15 people per guide. Larger groups are divided between multiple guides.

**Chaperones are required for school and children's groups:**
1 Adult for every 5 students ages 4-6
1 Adult for every 7 students ages 7-10
1 Adult for every 10 students over the age of 10

Chaperones should be familiar with the Botanic Garden rules (on the back of this page.) Their assistance in maintaining discipline is greatly appreciated. Students must be well supervised at all times. Disruptive groups will not be invited back for return visits.
Botanic Garden rules and safety: The Botanic Garden is a living plant museum. 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 your 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 and there may be hoses or other materials across walkways
- do not bring food or drink into the greenhouses
- as a courtesy to your guide, 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 Visitor Info page has group visit information and helpful links. We guarantee that you will learn something new about the Botanic Garden!
- Church Exhibition Gallery, Lyman Plant House: Check our web page for the current exhibition on display – [http://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits/exhibitions.html](http://www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits/exhibitions.html)

Directions from I-91:

- **From the south:** take Northampton exit #18. At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Rt. 5 proceed to the intersection of Rt. 5 & 9 (Main Street). Turn left, continue on Rt. 9 through Northampton center. Turn left onto College Lane (Main Entrance, 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:

- Buses or vans may park **temporarily** on College Lane 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.
- There are two visitor spaces for cars in front of the Lyman Plant House, plus one handicapped parking space.
- Parking is also available on Elm St., the Smith parking garage on West St., and on Greene St (metered parking.) Parking map: [http://www.smith.edu/campuspolice/docs/ParkingMap-Letter.pdf](http://www.smith.edu/campuspolice/docs/ParkingMap-Letter.pdf)
- Plan on 15-20 minutes to find a parking place.
- Campus parking lots are available for public use on weekends and on weekdays after 5 pm.

Accessibility: There is a handicapped parking space in front of the Lyman Plant House. We have two accessible entrances and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. All but one of the greenhouses is wheelchair accessible. For any special needs please let us know in advance.

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 Donna Gingras at 413-585-2639 — dgingras@smith.edu
- Picnicking is NOT permitted in any of the gardens on campus.
- School groups who wish to purchase food at the Campus Center Cafe must alert the Cafe office at 413-585-2332. Cafe. Menus are available at [www.smith.edu/campuscenter](http://www.smith.edu/campuscenter)