

TOUR GUIDELINES

Thanks for your interest in scheduling a visit to the South Carolina Botanical Garden. Our goal is to make visits to the Garden rewarding for all our guests. To better enjoy your visit, please review the following guidelines for enjoying the Garden.



Visiting the Garden

- please no Frisbees, balls etc.
- groups should stay together and not wander off designated trails and paths
- teachers/chaperones should accompany groups throughout their tour
- wear appropriate walking shoes and clothing

Picnics

Groups of 30 or less may use the picnic tables located behind the Red Caboose and pond (there are four tables) or near the Geology Museum (there are three tables). These tables are available only on a first come, first served basis. **Picnic tables cannot be reserved.** Larger groups may sit at the grassy area to the right of the Cadet Life Garden, or on the grass near the Geology Museum. Please bring garbage bags with you if you plan to picnic so that you can take your trash with you for disposal. If you are unable to carry your trash with you, a dumpster is located at the Discovery Center parking lot.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located at the Nature Center, a ten minute walk from the caboose picnic area, and at the Carriage House located between the Geology Museum and Discovery Center.

Fran Hanson Discovery Center

The Fran Hanson Discovery Center is the Garden's visitor center (Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm; Sunday 1-5pm). Displays inside provide an orientation and introduction to the Garden with hands-on exhibits and educational displays. The galleries upstairs feature rotating original art by South Carolina artisans. Our gift shop carries gardening and nature-related books and gifts as well as offerings from local artists. A public drinking fountain is located outside the Carriage House. Contact 864-656-3405 for more information.

Bob Campbell Geology Museum

The Bob Campbell Geology Museum is open Wednesday (Memorial Day through Labor Day), Thursday, Friday and Saturday (10am - 5pm) and Sunday (1pm-5pm). The Geology Museum houses an outstanding collection of paleontological and geological specimens as well as a fluorescent mineral room and the only *Smilodon* (Saber-toothed Cat) skeleton in the Southeast. The museum gift shop has something for everyone. Contact 864-656-4600 for more information.

Mailing Address:

The South Carolina Botanical Garden
102 Garden Trail, Clemson, SC 29634-0174
Phone: 864-656-3405 ~ Fax: 864-656-6230 ~ Email: scbg@clemson.edu
Website: <http://www.clemson.edu/scbg>

Guided Tours of the Garden

A limited number of guided tours are available for groups of 50 or less. When scheduling a visit to the Garden, the Clemson University Visitor's Center must be contacted at 864-656-7697. Tour guides are Garden volunteers. The Visitor's Center will send you a registration form which needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to your scheduled tour. Educators scheduling a guided tour/program need to contact the Garden's Education Director directly (864-656-3679). The Education staff will then assist in tailoring a tour to meet the group's educational goals. Please be on time, tour guides will wait 15 minutes for groups to arrive. In case of heavy rain, thunderstorms or other threatening weather, tours will be cancelled and/or rescheduled. Checks should be made payable to CU/SCBG. *Please note: Larger groups will be considered based on availability of program staff. Arrangements need to be made at least one month prior to visit and are subject to approval by Garden Staff.*

Self-Guided Tours of the Garden

Self-guided tours for groups of any kind should also be scheduled through the University Visitors Center and need to follow the same guidelines. "Self-guided tour" should not translate to "loosely structured" or without educational value for school groups. A well prepared educator or parent/volunteer can lead a tour without the assistance of a trained guide. Suggestions for a successful self-guided tour include:

~**Review** the packet of materials mailed to you by the Visitor Center. They include a map, restroom locations and water fountains, information about individual gardens, the Nature-based Sculpture program, and other points of interest within the Garden. Be sure to visit the garden's website! - www.clemson.edu/scbg for more information.

~**Respect** the beauty of our site. Possessing knowledge of the gifts the Garden has to offer enables the leader to explain to participants how to protect these gifts., e.g. preserving rather than damaging plants, sculptures and signage, staying on paths, etc. Please take your trash with you!

~**Practice** by taking yourself on a tour. Become familiar with trails appropriate to your group's limitations. What is it you want your group to experience on this trip?

~**Conduct** a pre-visit activity or group orientation to enhance the learning that will take place during your well-prepared self-guided tour. These pre-visit lessons often lend themselves to hands-on activities that are fun and interesting to students or group members.

~**Relax** and have fun while learning alongside your students or group members.

All Self-Guided tours and visits to the South Carolina Botanical Garden are free of charge. Please be sure to ask your tour guide about the FRIENDS membership program. The SCBG is open everyday of the year from dawn to dusk and free of charge. Donations may be mailed in or made at the Fran Hanson Discovery Center.

Guided Tours of the Geology Museum

All visits must be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance with the CU Visitor Center (864) 656-7697. Checks should be made payable to CU/BCGM. The museum gift shop includes educational and gift items from \$1 - \$25, although guides are asked to limit shop sales until the last 15 minutes of the visit. We encourage educators to explore our website prior to their tour at www.clemson.edu/geomuseum.

Guided Educational tours of the museum are: based on the SC Science Curriculum Standards, available Tuesday - Friday between the hours of 9am & 3pm, and limited to 25 students. Guided tours are usually lead by the Curator of Education, and a discounted rate of \$1.50 per person is offered.

Self-Guided Tours of the Museum of up to 25 visitors are available Tuesday - Saturday between 10am & 4pm, and Sunday between 1pm & 4pm. Scavenger hunts and answer keys (for teachers only) are available. General admission fees apply (\$3 adults, \$2 children).