

Edith J. Carrier Arboretum

Group Visit Guidelines

Scheduling

Please submit a reservation form one month or more prior to your requested group visit date.

Group Size

- *Docent-Guided Tours:* Each tour is limited to 20-25 participants per tour but we can accommodate larger field trip groups with multiple tours.
- *Self-Guided Tours:* Maximum 120 guests per day.

Arrival Information

- If you are bringing more than 5 private vehicles, please notify us so we can provide additional parking to accommodate these vehicles.
- Meet your tour guide at the Frances Plecker Education Center.

Lunch

Brown bag lunches or snack-type, individual carry-on foods and beverages are permitted. Scheduled tour groups may reserve the pavilion for lunch at no charge. The pavilion has six large picnic tables (seating approximately 25 adults) and is located near the Arboretum parking lot closest to Carrier Drive. Groups may also bring blankets to eat their lunches on the lawn. After eating lunch, be sure to check your area for trash and dispose of it appropriately in the trash cans provided.

* If a group leaves trash or debris at the pavilion, that group will be charged the normal pavilion reservation fee of \$50.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located at the Education Center, both inside and outside the building.

Dress

Group visits take place entirely outdoors. Please dress appropriately for the outdoors and uneven terrain. We recommend comfortable walking shoes, hats, water, and sunscreen.

Weather

The Arboretum does not have indoor facilities for large groups to wait out inclement weather. Severe inclement weather automatically cancels guided tours and rescheduling is the group's responsibility.

Emergency Procedure

Basic first aid is available at the Visitor Center. In the event of a medical emergency, call 911.

Other helpful numbers are listed below:

- Frances Plecker Education Center: (540) 568-3194
- JMU Police Department Emergency: (540) 568-6911
- JMU Police Department Alternate Emergency: (540) 442-6911
- JMU Police Department Non-Emergency: (540) 568-6912
- JMU Police Department Campus Safety Escorts: (540) 568-6913

Grounds Use

- Responsible Individual, and/or Group, either is, or both together are, liable for any and all damage to Arboretum property.
- No physical alteration, amendment, or adjustment to property, such as marking of trees, picking or cutting botanicals, setup of personal tents or canopies, nailing/tacking signs, is allowed.
- Visitors must remain on wood-chip trails and lawns. Traversing garden beds, entering ponds, waterways, and drain basins is prohibited.
- Feeding ducks, turtles and fish within the pond is permitted using only feed appropriate for aquatic species and not with human foods, for animal health and water quality (see posted educational signs by pond).
- Grounds remain open to the public during reserved tours with no gating or screening of other public users.
- Sporting activities such as football, soccer, Frisbee, etc. are prohibited on the grounds.
- No fires of any sort, including fires within portable grills, are allowed on premises and grounds. Smoking is prohibited on Arboretum grounds
- Users must remove, or leave no evidence of event debris and trash at sites used, and use waste receptacles provided.
- Pets must be on leash, under control and all pet leavings must be removed from lawns and trails by owner/handler.
- All users must vacate premises and parking areas by dusk.