

This document is meant to inform prospective educators and students about changes to our summer field trip season, outlining program changes, safety protocols, availability, and capacities. Any additional questions can be directed to the Registrar's Office at (630) 719-2468 or at registrar-ed@mortonarb.org.

The Morton Arboretum is currently reopening its grounds and buildings in phases, with adjusted hours and operations aimed at protecting public health during the ongoing response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. As everyone anticipates the beauty and science education available at the Arboretum this fall, the health and safety of guests and employees will remain of utmost importance. Please read our [Know Before You Go](#) FAQ before your arrival.

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## **PLANNING YOUR FIELD TRIP**

The education team at The Morton Arboretum have put capacity limits in place based on state guidelines. This will help ensure the safety of our guests and staff.

- Self-guided field trips are available for half-day programs.
  - Morning trips are between 8:00 - 11:30.
  - Afternoon trips are between 12:00 - 3:30.
- The following self-guided field trips are limited to these capacities:
  - Children's Garden: 400 per day
  - Habitat Hike Backpack: 50 per day
  - Joy Path Backpack: 50 per day
  - Tree ID Backpack: 50 per day
- There is no capacity for the following self-guided field trips:
  - East Side
  - West Side
  - Gateway to Tree Science
  - Magnolia Collection
  - Wetland, Woodlands, & Prairie
- We are unable to accommodate lunch spaces for school groups.
- We can schedule guided programs based on availability and group size. Please contact the Coordinator of School Programs, Megan Kuhl-Horbin (mkuhl-horbin@mortonarb.org) with inquiries.
- We are limiting the number of adults on the field trip. We are allotting 3 free adult teachers/chaperones per 20 students. State-required aides do not contribute to this count.

## **DURING YOUR FIELD TRIP**

Social distancing is essential for all who visit. Special measures have been put in place to ensure this onsite. Please be considerate of others by practicing social distancing around the Human+Nature sculptures, and in other areas of the Arboretum, such as parking lots and on trails.

- Students should not attend the field trip if they are unwell.
- The students attending the field trip will be separated in groups of 20 students or less with 3 teacher/adult chaperones per group.
- Your trip will **not** be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please dress appropriately.
- Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated guests are asked to wear masks when within six feet of any others who did not arrive with them and at all times when indoors.

**SANITIZATION**

In addition to the guidelines outlined below, all backpack materials will be sanitized before and after each use.

- Restrooms are being cleaned throughout the day and fully closed for 30 minutes every two hours for a sanitizing deep clean.
- At this time, water fountains and bottle fillers will be turned off. However, this may be adjusted throughout the course of the summer.
- Extra port-o-potties and handwashing stations are set up outside the Thornhill Shelter (Parking Lot 21-West Side), the bus lot near the Visitor's Center, Big Rock Visitor's Station (Parking Lot 13-East Side), and the Prairie Visitor Station (Parking Lot 25-West Side).