

This document is meant to inform prospective educators and students about changes to our fall 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. Be sure to check the [Know Before You Go](#) page on our website to get the most up-to-date information.

To ensure your well-being, entering and visiting the Arboretum for a field trip this fall will be different than usual:

PLANNING YOUR FIELD TRIP

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

- **We are only offering half-day programs;** we will not be offering full-day programs, which includes labs and half-day guided/half-day self-guided trips. Morning and afternoon programming times are as follows:
 - Morning (AM): Between 8:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
 - Afternoon (PM): Between 12:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.
- **We are unable to accommodate lunch spaces** for school groups.
- Our current program capacities are as follows:
 - Guided programs: **100** students in the morning; **100** students in the afternoon
 - Self-Guided: Normal capacities
 - West Side Self-Guided Backpacks: **80** per program; **1** program type per day
- We are no longer limiting the number of adults on a field trip. We are allotting 3 free teachers/chaperones per 20 students. Extra adults are \$16 per person. State-required aides get free admission, but must be identified on the registration form.

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. There might be some flexibility to prevent mixing cohorts. Please indicate this on your registration form.
- The practice of social distancing between schools will be incorporated into your field trip to insure both student and staff safety.
- Please note: the Arboretum requires non vaccinated individuals to be masked indoors. However, the Personal Protective Equipment policies of your school/district will be identified in the registration form and followed during your programs.
- In case of inclement weather, indoor space is reserved in the Thornhill Education Center, where students and adults will be required to wear masks. As always, we will run your program, rain or shine, so please bring rain gear if the forecast looks soggy. We are limited in our onsite capacity for field trips so that schools and cohorts will not have to intermix if this becomes the case.

- Program content may be modified to reduce close contact of participants and allow for social distancing practices, as much as possible.
- While visiting the Children's Garden, Maze Garden, Arbor Court, and other high traffic areas within the Arboretum, mask wearing is recommended for non vaccinated individuals.

SANITIZATION

In addition to the guidelines outlined below, all materials will be sanitized before and after each use, and hand sanitizing gel will be available inside the Thornhill Education Center.

- Restrooms are being cleaned throughout the day.
- Extra port-o-potties and handwashing stations are set up outside the Thornhill Shelter (Parking Lot 21-West Side), near Lake Marmo (Parking Lot 29-West Side), Big Rock Visitor's Station (Parking Lot 13-East Side), and the Prairie Visitor Station (Parking Lot 25-West Side).