

## Self-Guided Habitat Tour of Descanso Gardens: Teacher & Chaperone Guide

Descanso Gardens is a habitat for many animals. A habitat is the natural home for an animal, plant, or other organism. Animals that call Descanso Gardens home include insects, squirrels, rabbits, birds, deer, bobcats and even an occasional black bear.

### Tour length:

Approximately 1 hour

### Instructions:

1. Review Teacher & Chaperone Information, including the Code of Conduct, before you get started.
2. Use the map below to help you find your way.
3. Students can work in their Habitat Exploration Journals at each location you visit today.

### *Places to go:*

#### The Rose Garden

Since flowers can't move, they need help spreading their seeds and pollen. A pollinator is an insect such as a butterfly, bee, or an animal such as a bird, that helps spread a flower's pollen. As you explore the Rose Garden keep an eye out for pollinators at work.

**Butterflies** like red, orange, yellow or blue flowers.

**Hummingbirds** like tube-shaped red, orange and purple flowers.

**Bees** like yellow, blue, and purple flowers that are shaped like bowls or bells.

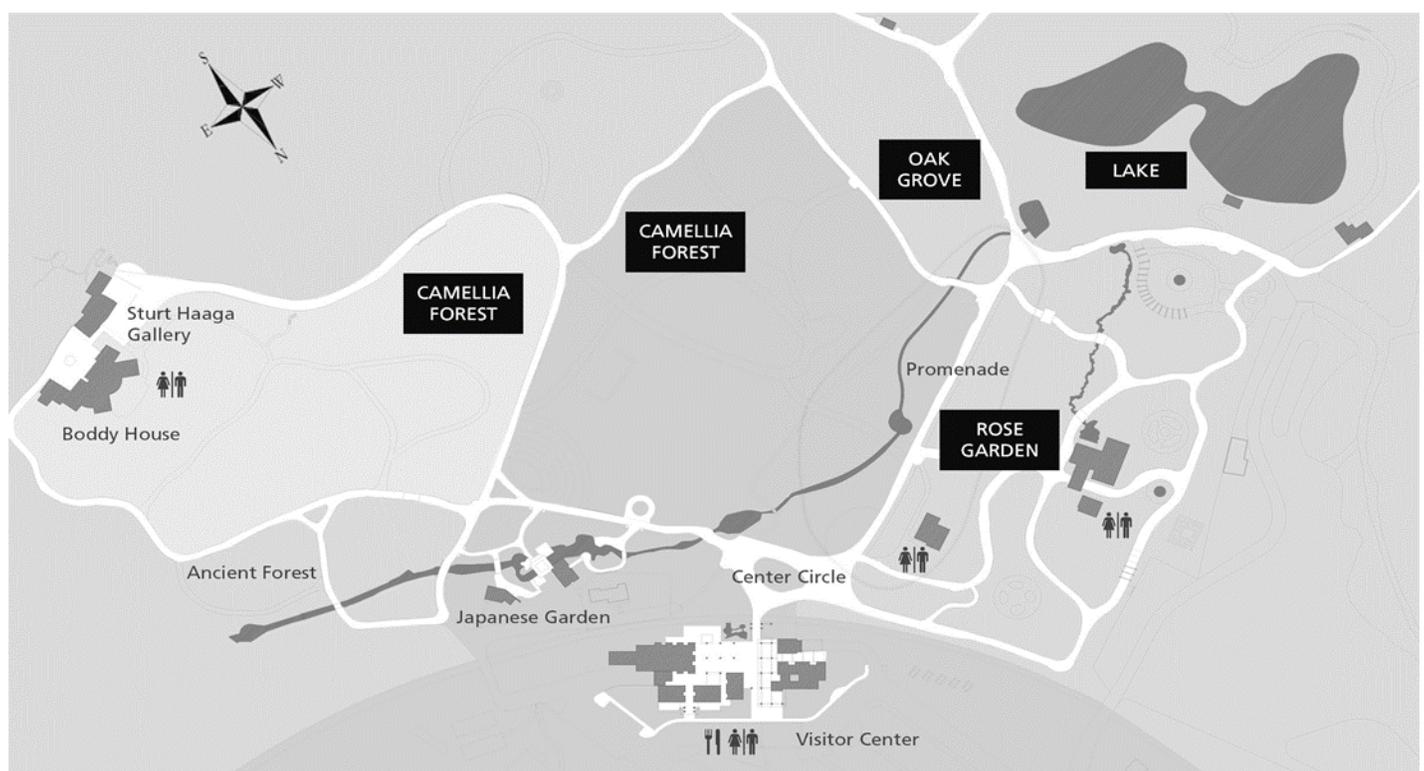
#### The Lake

This lake is a water source for many animals. You might see mallard ducks, turtles, fish and various migrating birds. The native plants surrounding the lake provide food for many mammals, birds, and insects.

Tips for finding birds: 1. STOP 2. LOOK 3. LISTEN 4. REPEAT

#### The Oak Grove and Camellia Forest

Coast live oak trees are a keystone species in our Southern California ecosystem. Coast live oaks can be identified by their spreading, crooked branches and oval green leaves. The trees provide shelter for many of the animals that live in and around Descanso Gardens. The acorns these trees produce are an important food source for many insects, birds and mammals. Look closely to see evidence that animals live here. Evidence can include nests, animal tracks, feathers, spider webs and more.



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## *Teacher and Chaperone Information:*

### Code of Conduct

- Chaperones are responsible for being an active part of their group and ensuring the safety of their students. Chaperones will ensure that students follow the code of conduct at all times.
- Students and chaperones must stay with their assigned group at all times.
- Students will stay on pathways while exploring the gardens.
- Students will not pick or damage plants in any way.
- Students will respect wildlife and keep a safe distance between themselves and all wild animals.
- Groups will respect other visitors and wildlife by keeping noise levels to a minimum.

### Tips for Teaching Outside

- **Review expectations** Before setting off to explore, find a quiet spot to briefly go over expectations for learning and behavior (see the Code of Conduct above).
- **Address basic needs** Has your group used the restroom, drunk enough water, and had a snack if needed? Ensuring everyone is comfortable and ready to explore will make your visit more enjoyable.
- **Choose an attention-getter** This could be something that the students are familiar with from class or something you make up together as a group. Examples include a clapping pattern that students repeat or a call-and-response phrase or rhyme. Use one of these to let students know “I need your attention” or “time to meet me here.”
- **Set parameters for exploring** When you arrive at a new spot, give students clear instructions on where they are allowed to explore. Use landmarks like trees and paths to help set these parameters.
- **Consider transitions** Take advantage of the time it takes you to get from place to place by asking students a question they can consider while walking, then share out once you get to your next destination.
- **Vary your visit** Reach different types of learners and get the most out of the experience by varying your activities. Spend time quietly drawing in one spot, then move somewhere new for a movement activity or more active observation.

### Restrooms

Restrooms are located at the train station, in the Rose Garden, by the Visitor Center, the gallery and the Boddy House. Please supervise their use.

### Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency call the Visitor Center at (818) 949-4201. Basic first aid is available at the Visitor Center.

### Food

Food is not allowed inside the gardens. You may have lunch or snacks at the Picnic Area just outside the Visitor Center. Water in bottles is allowed in the gardens.