

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

Pollination is an important part of a plant's life cycle. Since flowers can't move, they need help spreading their pollen to create new seeds. A pollinator is an insect such as a butterfly or bee, or an animal such as a bird or bat, that helps spread a flower's pollen. Usually a pollinator transfers pollen by accident as they collect nectar for food. As you explore the gardens, keep an eye out for pollinators at work.

**Tour length:**  
Approximately 1 hour—1 hour & 15 minutes

**Instructions:**

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



**The pollinators you will most likely see at Descanso during the day are:**

**Butterflies:** Attracted to brightly colored flowers that occur in clusters. They use their proboscis (long, tube-like tongue) to reach hidden nectar.

**Hummingbirds:** Attracted to tube-shaped flowers that match the shape of their long, thin bills. Birds don't have a strong sense of smell, but their keen eyesight draws them to brightly colored flowers.

**Bees:** Attracted to yellow, blue, and purple flowers that are shaped like bowls or bells. Bees can't see the color red, but they do have a very good sense of smell, and like sweet or minty smelling flowers.

**Places to go:**

At each location, give students time to find a comfortable sitting spot, and look and listen for pollinators, then draw and write about them in their journals.

**Rose Garden** (Best time to visit: April—June)

In addition to roses, a variety of companion flourish during the spring and early summer. Tip: You can often hear the "hum" of hummingbirds before you see them, so make sure to listen closely too!

**Promenade** (Best time to visit: all year)

A variety of colors, shapes, and scents attract all kinds of pollinators to this part of the garden, which changes seasonally.

**California Garden** (Best time to visit: March—May)

Look for a variety of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that support our native bee, bird, and butterfly populations.

# Self-Guided Field Trip to Descanso Gardens: Teacher & Chaperone Guide

## 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.

### Common Questions

#### Where are the restrooms?

Restrooms and water fountains are located in the Courtyard, Promenade, Rose Garden, Sturt Haaga Gallery, and Boddy House. Please supervise their use.

#### Where can we eat our lunch?

Food is not allowed inside the gardens (water in bottles is allowed). You may have lunch or snacks at the Picnic Area just outside the Visitor Center. Courtyard tables are reserved for Café Descanso guests.

#### What do I do if someone in my group is hurt or becomes ill?

Find a Descanso staff member identified by their purple shirt, and they will get you immediate help. Basic first aid is available at the Visitor Center, (818) 949-4201

## 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 to the left).
- **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 as to where they are allowed to explore. Use landmarks like trees and paths to help set these parameters.

### Students assigned to my group:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Meet for lunch at this time: \_\_\_\_\_