

## 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—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 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 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.

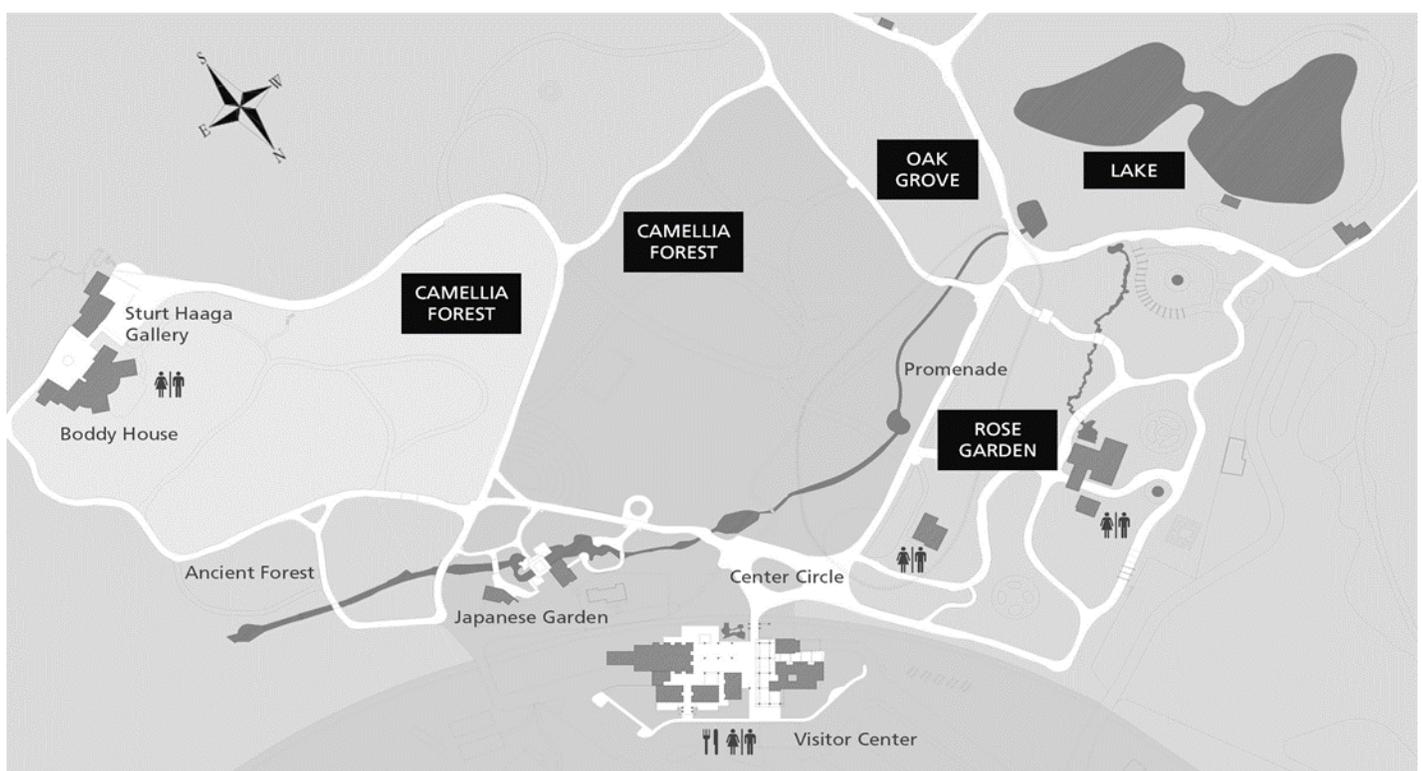
#### The Lake

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.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Today we are exploring animal habitats at Descanso Gardens.

What I know about habitats:

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Questions I have about habitats:

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### Activity 1: *RECORD*

As you explore different areas of the garden today, look and listen closely for animals and signs of animal life.

Make a tally mark each time you find a clue.



Squirrel \_\_\_\_\_



Bird \_\_\_\_\_



Bird call, squirrel chatter, or another animal noise \_\_\_\_\_



Scat \_\_\_\_\_



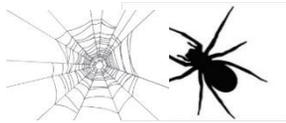
Animal burrow \_\_\_\_\_



Lizard \_\_\_\_\_



Feather \_\_\_\_\_



Spider/spider web \_\_\_\_\_



Nest \_\_\_\_\_

Total clues found: \_\_\_\_\_

Share your tally with a friend. Did you notice different things?

### Activity 2: *OBSERVE*

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- Choose an area of the garden to quietly observe for 5 minutes.
- Remember to look up, down, and all around you.
- Write or draw your observations in the space below.



I notice. . .

I wonder. . .

This reminds me of. . .

### Activity 3: *IMAGINE*

If you could be an animal who lived at Descanso Garden, what kind would it be?

\_\_\_\_\_



Draw a picture of the animal in its habitat.

A large, rounded rectangular area with a blue border, intended for drawing the animal in its habitat.

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An important part of being a scientist is sharing your findings with others. When your group meets back up with the rest of your class, present your observations.

*Our class observed a total of \_\_\_\_\_ animal clues on our exploration.*

*Our class observed these animals on our exploration: \_\_\_\_\_*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Descanso Gardens Habitat Journal

