

Descanso Special Events FAQs

1. I want to propose at the Gardens. Is this something I can do?

You are more than welcome to propose at the Gardens. However, we do not offer any special accommodation or package for marriage proposals. We do not allow any props, décor, music, etc. in the Gardens. You will also need to purchase admission tickets for all guests involved. We are unable to reserve or block off a space for proposals, so other garden guests and members may be in the area as well.

2. I would like to rent the Japanese Garden or Rose Garden on a Saturday for an event. Do you have availability?

We do not rent our outdoor facilities while we are still open to the public.* Therefore, we are unable to accommodate garden space rentals during the daytime. Outdoor rentals are limited to the Rose Garden only from mid-March to mid-September.

**The gardens will be open to the public until 7pm during Rose Garden rental availability months. The Rose Garden will be closed to the public beginning at 5pm, but guests will still be in other locations in the Gardens until 7pm.*

3. Can I have an event or wedding alongside Carved or Enchanted Forest of Light?

Carved and Enchanted are separate ticketed events, and take up the entire garden grounds and parking lots. We are unable to accommodate additional weddings or events during the run of Carved and Enchanted Forest of Light.

4. What about a holiday party with tickets to Carved or Enchanted Forest of Light?

Our rental spaces are needed to support both Carved and Enchanted Forest of Light, so we are unable to accommodate holiday parties in the evenings. You are still welcome to purchase tickets for your group, but we are unable to offer a private experience.

5. Do your event spaces have AV support?

We have a projector screen and cart we can provide, but not a projector. You are welcome to bring/rent your own. We do have easels, white board, and a podium if available. Please coordinate with your Special Events representative before the day of the event what equipment will be needed. WiFi is also available in rental spaces however may be limited.

6. I noticed photo permits are only available from 9am–2pm. Is there any way to accommodate photo permits during golden hour?

Events and weddings booked at Descanso Gardens have priority for photo permits after 3pm. If we do not have a wedding or other event booked on the specific date you were planning, we may be able to extend the permit time up until 30 minutes prior to the scheduled Garden closing time. Please contact photography@descansogardens.org for all non-commercial photo permit questions.

7. Will I get garden access with my room rental?

Yes, admission to Descanso Gardens is included with a room rental for all event guests. Admission is only available from the beginning of your event start time up until the scheduled Garden closing time. You will not have access to your booked room after the scheduled event time on your rental contract. Evening indoor room rentals (when available) will not have access to the Gardens.

8. What type of decorations can I bring for my event?

We do not allow balloons, confetti, or florals/plants that are considered in invasive species. All decorations must be freestanding (tabletop, self-standing photo backdrop, etc.) or use existing nails, hooks, etc. already in the venue. No additional, nails, tape or hooks may be added to the walls or ceilings. This includes 'Command Hooks'.

9. Can I bring my own food for my event?

The Kitchen at Descanso is the exclusive and onsite caterer for all events at Descanso Gardens. Outside catering is not allowed. You must approve catering estimates before signing a room rental contract.

10. Can I bring an outside cake or dessert to my event?

Outside desserts or cakes may be brought in, however we would ask you to coordinate/inform the catering team beforehand. Cake cutting fees may apply.