

Field Trips @ ICG



FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

Wetland Explorers (K-5)

Wade in and explore the diversity of plants and animals that make their homes in ICG's wetland habitats. Nets and containers in tow, we'll experience these creature up close and see their unique adaptations at work.

Pollen and Parts (2-5)

Dive inside flowers to discover more than their beautiful facades. Dissect their unique structure and inner workings. Become a grain of pollen and figure out how to make your way by wind, animal, or insect to fulfill your mission of ensuring the futures of fruits, seeds, and all life on earth.

Compost Magic (PreK-5)

What's going on in the deep, dark depths of the compost bin? Explore the kingdom of tiny creatures and crucial energy cycles that fuel decomposition of organic matter in our world. Get your hands dirty turning and sifting.

All 5 Senses (PreK-5)

Enter ICG's Kitchen Garden and awaken your senses to the tastes, smells, textures, sounds, and sights within. We will use all our senses as we find the hidden rainbow growing, taste and smell herbs, discover why some stems are hairy, and listen for the creatures hidden out of sight.

Animal Helpers: Bees & Hens (PreK-5)

Find out what all the buzzing and clucking is all about. Pet chickens, taste honey, and learn how these two very different creatures help care for the Garden and how we care for them.

Purely Play (PreK-12)

Play is not just fun, it is critical to learning and healthy child development. Children also develop a relationship with nature through play. It's that relationship that inspires our future environmental stewards. See what magic unfolds when children have time, space, and permission to play.

Service Learning (5-12)

Who says hard work can't be fun? Bring your group on a service learning field trip at ICG to learn what it takes to maintain a public garden. Through hands-on-work, youth will see the impacts of their labor and the value of teamwork. Project length and rotations change according to the specific needs of the garden at the time of your service learning trip.



Schedule Your Field Trip Today!

<http://ithacachildrengarden.org/programs/field-trips> | 607-319-4203 | education@ithacachildrengarden.org

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TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

"My students were very excited to have the opportunity to find, see, and touch living creatures in the compost, chicken coop, and in the creek. My students loved getting to eat outdoors and have unstructured play time after the tour." – ICSD teacher

"The Hands-on-Nature Anarchy Zone was absolutely a wonderful and surprising highlight. I loved watching my students come alive in that area!" – ICSD teacher

"Imagine a place where children can go to nibble on kale, swing on tree branches, tickle tadpoles and dig, dig, dig in the dirt to their hearts content. What joy! We have it right here: Ithaca Children's Garden provides children with the opportunity to explore both cultivated space and natural environment in complete freedom. And it just keeps getting better. For many of my students, playing outside is not a given. Playing outside with lots of room to explore, create and grow is even less probable. Ithaca Children's Garden provides us with a place to take teaching into the world. Our studies of life cycles, animal habitats and composting come alive. Many students report returning to the garden with their families following our school visits." ~ Teacher, Beverly J Martin Elementary School



"We painted with natural dyes, learned about compost, planted seeds, fished for tadpoles, played a team challenge game. The folks there were fantastic. Then the kids went off to play. It was such an incredibly primal pleasure to watch the children "go free!" (That's how I released them after the reminder of a very short list of rules). Little bumps that would have sent them crying for ice or a bandaid at school were walked off. Little disagreements were shrugged off because there was everywhere else to go. Their faces were open and their voices strong and THEY WERE LEARNING!!!" ~2nd grade teacher, Fall Creek Elementary

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Pre-registration is required.

Payment is due at the time of your visit unless arrangements have been made ahead. Please use the online form to express your interest in a field trip to ICG and request your preferred dates and program.

[Field Trip Registration Form](#)

COST AND DETAILS

Garden Field Trips: \$6/student; no charge for adult chaperones

We recommend planning for a 2-4 hour field trip. Based on your group size we will ask you to divide your students into 2-4 smaller groups for the activity portion of your field trip. You'll receive an information packet at least 2 weeks before your visit which will include a proposed schedule, map of the Garden, and background information for teachers and chaperones as well as information to share with parents and students.

1. Groups arrive and gather inside the Garden's Main Entrance.
2. An ICG educator will welcome and orient your group.
3. An ICG educator will offer a 15 minute garden lesson/exploration/game for up to 4 groups of students.
4. Groups are welcome to stay for as long as they'd like to explore, play, and picnic lunch.

ADD ONS: Add an ICG Educator for a second 20-25 minute garden lesson/exploration/game for \$2 per student. Add a Playworker to support child-led free play in the Hands-on-Nature Anarchy Zone for \$2 per student.

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OTHER FIELD TRIPS

***BUDDY UP** FIELD TRIPS (2 classrooms): \$120

**available to ICSD and select Tompkins Co Schools. Please contact us to learn more.*

Please be sure to clear your date with ICG staff **before** scheduling your field trip. We recommend planning for a 2-4 hour field trip. Based on your group size we will ask you to divide your students into 2-4 smaller groups for the activity portion of your field trip. You'll receive an information packet at least 2 weeks before your visit which will include a proposed schedule, map of the Garden, and background information for teachers and chaperones as well as information to share with parents and students.



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SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

Groups that would like to visit Ithaca Children's Garden independently are welcome to do so. The Garden is open every day, dawn to dusk. However, we kindly request you fill out the [Field Trip Registration Form](#) so we can avoid scheduling conflicts, count your visit, and alert you to anything that may affect your trip, like construction projects, status of restrooms, or special teachable moments.

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