



TOHONO CHUL
PARK
Discover its Nature!

Guided Tour Information for Teachers

Welcome to Tohono Chul Park! We look forward to hosting your class during this discovery tour of our remarkable Sonoran Desert. We have prepared the following information to help make your visit both enjoyable and educational. Please review this material, and share the Chaperon Guidelines with your chaperons. Parents who understand their role in your students' learning experience benefit you, your students, and the Park's docents.

We request one adult for every ten students (for pre-K and K we would like one adult for every five students). Please divide your students into groups of ten before reaching the Park, this makes the check-in process much easier and quicker.

Guided tours can accommodate a limited number of student siblings or additional family members. We are happy to include pre-school younger brothers and sisters in a guided tour, when they are accompanying a parent chaperon, but please do not abuse the privilege. Additional chaperons, over the number requested, may be charged admission to the Park.

Name tags are requested for students and chaperons. This enables the docent guide to address students by name and identifies your students as part of a school tour group. Please do not use straight pins to attach the nametags. Pins are dangerous to our animals; use yarn or tape instead, or try self-adhesive labels.

Dress for the weather and walking in the desert. Have your students wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes — no sandals. Wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen of SPF15 or better are also a good idea. And, don't forget a water bottle!

Tohono Chul is strictly a desert preserve with very limited picnic facilities. Arrangements must be made in advance for picnicking; this includes snacks. Large groups (25 or more) are asked to use James D. Kriegh Park at 23 West Calle Concordia, just off Oracle Road, for picnic lunches. If you need to provide snacks for your students, please do so only at designated picnic tables or on the bus. The locations of picnic tables in the Demonstration Gardens are clearly marked on the Park map. The Performance Garden, Garden for Children, Spanish Colonial Courtyard, and Sundial Plaza are not designated eating areas.

The Museum Shops and Greenhouse are off-limits to school tours without pre-arrangement. 5th grade students and up, may visit the Museum Shops; and, 3rd grade students and up, may visit the retail Greenhouse, by pre-arrangement only.

Teachers who choose to remain on Park grounds after a tour is completed must supervise their students at all times. This is especially true when visiting the Garden for Children, an area designed for exploration, but also requiring guidance.

Prepare your students. Tour Pre-visit Materials for use in your classroom are available on our website — www.tohonochulpark.org/forteachers.html. If you do not have internet access, call the Education Office at 742-6455 x. 228. The better prepared your students are, the better their field trip experience will be.

On your arrival, meet your Docent Tour Guides at the Bus Drop Off, or under the Entry Ramada across from Admissions (map enclosed and on the web). Tours are expected to arrive on time. If you are running late, please call the Education Department at 742-6455 x 228, or contact Admissions at 742-6455 x 240, and advise us as to when we can expect you. If you are more than 30 minutes late, we cannot guarantee you a guided tour. Once your students have disembarked at the Bus Drop Off, please have the bus must park in the designated bus pullout.

Reinforce what students learn during the tour. Back in the classroom discuss the field trip to the Park and make use of the suggested post-visit activities in your teacher's materials.



Docent-facilitated explorations



TOHONO CHUL PARK

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Guided Tour Information for Chaperons



a tour of one of the Park's art exhibits

Thank you for being a chaperon for a Docent-guided tour of Tohono Chul Park — Welcome! Tohono Chul (translated as “desert corner” in the language of the Tohono O’odham) is the place where nature, art, and culture connect. With its open space, nature trails, gardens, and changing art exhibits, the Park invites exploration and discovery. Our goal and purpose is to inspire everyone - visitors, community members and, most importantly, children - with the desire to learn how to live with our desert home. Our mission is *to enrich people's lives by providing them the opportunity to find peace and inspiration in a place of beauty, to experience the wonders of the Sonoran Desert, and to gain knowledge of the natural and cultural heritage of this region.*

Parent chaperons play an important role in making field trips an enjoyable educational experience. You don't have to be an expert on the Sonoran Desert to do this;

the Park's volunteer Docent Tour Guides will do that. Your job is to supervise the behavior of the students in your care, keep the group together, and assist with the learning process. Your attention to this allows the Docent to focus on the tour itself, rather than having to discipline the students.

Dress for the weather and walking in the desert. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes — no sandals. Wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen of SPF15 or better are also a good idea. And, don't forget a water bottle! We also request that you turn off any cell phones or pagers during the tour. This is a courtesy to your tour guide and the students.

Chaperons must remain with their groups at all times. You will be responsible for approximately ten students. Help them remember the Rules of the Park. Encourage them to respond to the Docent's questions during the tour. You are welcome to ask questions, too, but please save yours for the end of the tour so the students have the opportunity to respond.

The Rules of the Park are simple:

- ❖ We ask that all visitors stay on the trails and avoid stepping on trail-side plants and hidden animals.
- ❖ There is no running in the Park — gravel paths can be slippery.
- ❖ Do not pick or collect anything; behavior respectful of nature and the site is expected.
- ❖ Quiet will also ensure a greater opportunity to see the Park's resident, uncaged wildlife.
- ❖ Use your senses — sight, hearing, smell — to help you discover the desert!



exploring the Garden for Children

We look forward to seeing you at the Park!

To learn more about Tohono Chul Park, and the educational aspects of your visit, log onto our website at www.tohonochulpark.org/forteachers.html. For children's activities, check out [/forkids.html](http://www.tohonochulpark.org/forkids.html).