



Dear Teacher or Chaperone,

Thank you for guiding your students through an On Your Own field trip at the Chicago Botanic Garden! The attached Garden Quest student activity is designed to give students a reason to slow down and engage with the natural world here at the Garden. We invite you to print the activity for your students to bring on the trip. It may be completed individually or in groups. You may choose to bring your own clipboards and writing tools.

Our hope is that an On Your Own field trip can be an opportunity for students to:

- Apply science concepts they have learned in the classroom
- Appreciate the beauty of nature and feel a connection to it
- Experience wonder and awe at unique plants and landscapes that they may not see every day

Some helpful reminders for presenting this activity to students:

- *You may not find everything on this list. Why might that be? How do seasonality and weather factor into what you might see?*
- *You might not have time to complete the entire activity. That's OK! Some portions of the activity can be completed back at school or at home.*
- *You may find something at the Garden that sparks your interest and isn't part of this activity. That is great, and we encourage you to observe that closely!*

Quick Tips	
Do...	Don't...
...take time before the field trip to read through the Garden Quest as a class	...forget writing utensils!
...give students an idea of how many minutes they'll have in a particular space.	...give students answers. This can hurt their confidence in their own abilities.
...encourage students to explain or describe what they've found.	...make it a race. This can put blinders on students, closing them off to discoveries.

We recommend taking time after the trip to review the activity with your class. Depending on the age of your students, you may encourage them to use phones to capture photos of their discoveries.

If you prefer that your students engage more with sensory and mindfulness opportunities that nature offers, consider downloading and printing the **Garden Quest: Wellness Walk**. If you prefer a more student-led activity, consider downloading and printing the **Garden Quest: DIY**.

A Garden map with recommended spots for school and youth groups can be found [here](#).

We hope you enjoy your On Your Own field trip!