



BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

**Roots, Shoots and Boots Homeschool Programs  
Parent Information Packet**

## **ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS:**

BBG is excited to offer hands-on learning opportunities for homeschool pods and families. Each family or pod is invited to choose from a variety of lessons which focus on inquiry-based instruction and scientific discovery within the Garden. Lessons align with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, with COVID safety protocols in place to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. We are happy to work with you to offer individualized lessons on specific areas of interest, or you can trust our experienced youth educators to do the planning for you! Let the Garden be your classroom this fall!

Please expect to remain with your group for the duration of the session!

Each of these sessions are designed for pods or ‘cohorts’. This is defined as a group of students who have consistently had physical contact with each other and have limited any other physical contact with those outside of their pod. Families, or groups of families, have begun to form these pods so as to continue to socialize and learn together.

Families and pods may choose from two session options:

- Sign up for a single session at the Garden (2 hours).
- Sign up for four sessions over the course of multiple weeks.

## **RATES:**

### Individual Session:

\$12 for members and \$15 for non-members per student

### Four Sessions:

\$45 for members and \$55 for non-members per student

## **Cancelations or Rescheduling:**

If your group needs to cancel or reschedule for any reason, please contact the education coordinator as soon as possible so that they can plan accordingly.

## **COVID- 19 SAFETY:**

BBG is carefully following all guidance and recommendations provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the CDC. These include:

- Requiring all visitors to wear a face covering when in the Garden.
- Requiring social distancing of a least 6 feet.
- Implementing regular daily cleaning of bathrooms and other facilities.
- Providing hand sanitizer.
- Running programs outdoors when possible or in a well-ventilated area, 6 feet apart when indoors.

All participating families:

- If anyone in your pod is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone showing symptoms, we ask that you call the Education Coordinator to evaluate your options before arriving at the garden. Symptoms include but are not limited to:
  - Cough, difficulty breathing
  - Sore Throat
  - Skin Rash
  - Vomiting and/or diarrhea
  - Fever
  - Muscle and/or body aches
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Loss of taste and/or smell

### **PROGRAM SCHEDULES:**

These sessions are set to run September 8th through October 15th. Sessions are two hours in length and can be scheduled in a morning or afternoon block. Any scheduling will be done with the Education Coordinator and can be flexible to fit the needs of your family or pod.

#### **Example Program Schedule**

9:30 AM - 9:40 AM	Welcome and Check In
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM	Intro to Lesson and Background
9:50 AM - 10:10 AM	Themed Tour
10:10 AM - 11:00AM	Lesson and Activity
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Take Home Activity or Project
11:30 AM	Goodbye

After or before the session, homeschool pods/families are welcome to explore the garden some more and/or bring a picnic lunch to have in the garden!

### **STUDENT NEEDS:**

Please pack whatever the students need to feel comfortable in the garden. We suggest each student bring the following items with their name written somewhere on them:

- Water bottle
- Closed toed shoes appropriate for walking and being in the garden
- Sunscreen/bug spray
- Rain gear or sweater when applicable

For further questions please contact Education Coordinator, Rachel Durgin via email [rdurgin@berkshirebotanical.org](mailto:rdurgin@berkshirebotanical.org) or by phone at 413-298-4505.

