



School Field Trips at The Children’s Garden – Los Guilicos

About Master Gardeners

We are agents of the University of California whose mission is extending science-based educational outreach to our community on horticulture and sustainable landscape practices.

About The Children’s Garden

The Children’s Garden features over 650 plants grown from seeds and starts and has two key objectives:

- Provide fresh vegetables to children at VMCC (Valley of the Moon Children’s Center).
- Educate Sonoma County elementary school students on sustainable gardening practices and environmental stewardship through our field trips during the school year and VMCC youth during summer.

The Children’s Garden, located at the Los Guilicos Demonstration and Teaching Garden in east Santa Rosa, is ADA compliant and welcomes diversity in all forms — people, plants, animals and habitat.

About our School Field Trips

Our field trips are free and include bus transportation for schools needing assistance.

About our staff and curriculum

The lessons reinforce NexGen Science and Core Curriculum standards and are led by our experienced Master Gardener team of 20 volunteers, many of whom are retired, long-time teachers and administrators. All Master Gardener volunteers are fingerprinted.

Field trips held during the school year are available to TK (Transitional Kindergarten) through fifth grade Sonoma County schools, including special needs students. Special scheduling consideration is given to schools in underserved communities.

Field trips are scheduled for a half day in the morning. Students begin the field trip by reviewing our “Garden of Good Manners” and “Children’s Bill of Rights” then rotate through five stations throughout the garden for 30-minute lessons per station. Students also learn the value of gratefulness by creating gratitude banners for the garden. Topics covered at the stations:

- **Indigenous History:** By constructing a miniature Wappo village, students learn about protecting the land, using only what they need and living as one with nature.
- **Soil:** Vermiculture with a focus on “critter identification” and invertebrate anatomy.
- **Habitat:** The parts of a flower and pollination.

- **Food Gardening:** The history and plant interaction in a Four Sisters garden.
- **Mindfulness and The Five Senses:** Identification and feelings associated with plants appealing to sight, hearing, taste, smell and sound.

A Student Journal that complements each lesson is used during the field trip. The journal, which students can take back to their classrooms, is used to record information and provide additional learning aids by topic. While the topics are consistent for younger and older students, the degree of detail and sophistication is tailored based on grade level.

All teachers receive an information packet with field trip details several weeks before each field trip. A University of California waiver must be signed by students' parents/guardians, chaperones and teachers before participating in our field trips. Pre-field trip classroom visits are available upon request to set student expectations about their field trip and introduce them to our Garden of Good Manners and Children's Bill of Rights.

How the free bus transportation works

- **Teacher or school administrator:** Contacts preferred bus company to place order for transportation for the day of the field trip.
- **Bus company:** Submits bill to UC Regents c/o UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County, 133 Aviation Blvd., #109, Santa Rosa, CA 95403, Attn: Mimi Enright