

Guidelines for Participating in Yerba Mansa Project Youth Programs and Bosque Outings

Field Guide Participation Step by Step:

1. Download and read through the Field Guide Instructions document. Contact us with any questions regarding participation and to enroll your students.
2. If desired, complete the Transportation Grant Application online by the deadline.
3. We will send you a spreadsheet of available plants and ask that you (the teacher or group leader) sign your students up for plants to research and fill in the requested contact information next to their chosen plant.
4. If you are not applying for a Transportation Grant but would like to request a field trip, contact us with information about your group and preferred dates. A limited number of field trips are offered each year. You must sign your students up for a minimum of 10 plants in order to request a field trip. Field trips will take place after your students completed work is uploaded to the online guide. Note: Some students may encounter their selected plant during the field trip and wish to add additional photos or facts after their field trip and that is encouraged. However, only a small number of plants from the list will be encountered during the field trip.
5. Students will research their plants and write a report. This project is designed to be interdisciplinary and research is encouraged to include other elements such as photographs showing botanical features of plants, botanical drawings, range maps, herbal remedy or wild food recipes, or other information that you and your students find interesting.
6. Students will upload their plant reports and any images to our iNaturalist Field Guide. All entries must be uploaded 2 weeks before your field trip, if applicable, or prior to the end of the current school year. Be sure to let us know when your entries are up so we can check them out.
7. If you are taking a field trip, please read through and share with your students our Guidelines for Bosque Outings below and any background reading that we've provided.
8. Go on your field trip! This will be a chance to explore the Bosque and learn more about native plants, ecology, natural history, human impacts on the Bosque, and our Bosque restoration work.
9. Add any post-field trip additions to your Field Guide entries that you may have (photos, sketches, etc.)
10. Download the iNaturalist App (if you haven't already) so you can show your friends and family that your work has been published in this awesome community resource.

Guidelines for Bosque Outings (Field Trips and Restoration Work Days):

1. Help us protect Bosque vegetation by staying on trails during plant walks and by being mindful of your footsteps during restoration work. We want to avoid trampling Bosque vegetation, especially when we are large groups.
2. Picking, harvesting, or cutting plants in the Albuquerque Bosque is illegal. Please refrain from picking or otherwise damaging plants during our field trips. (Efforts to limit the spread of invasive species are an exception to this, but even this work is done as carefully as possible and under supervision of City Open Space.)
3. Be prepared by wearing the right clothes and bringing the right equipment. Appropriate clothing can make your outing more enjoyable. Plants can be bristly or sharp; mosquitoes may be present; and ground may be muddy. Wearing long sleeve protective clothing and sneakers or hiking shoes is recommended for everyone, especially for restoration field crews. Everyone needs to bring lots of water to drink, especially restoration work crews. Other things to bring include: sunscreen, bug repellent, camera, notebook and pencil, and snacks or lunch for afterward. Restoration field crew members should bring work gloves, if they have some.
4. Plant walk field trips: Groups will be divided into 2 or 3 subgroups, each lead by a different Yerba Mansa Project Educator with a different topic. Each subgroup will rotate through a walk/talk lead by each instructor while learning about edible/medicinal plants, natural history of the Bosque, Botany, and/or other topics.
5. Plant walk field trip leaders and chaperones must sign our liability waiver indicating that you are responsible for the safety of your students.
6. Restoration field work days: City of Albuquerque Open Space will train all volunteers and provide tools. Groups will be divided into smaller work crews doing either Ravenna Grass removal or reseeding native plants.
7. Make sure your group has an appropriate number of chaperones for your students.
8. Have fun and ask questions. You are there to enjoy the Bosque and learn about why it is so special. We are glad to share this experience with you!