

Saint John's Arboretum Weather Policy for Field Trips

Using the outdoors as a classroom has many inherent benefits and many teachable moments. With all the benefits, there are also added circumstances to deal with, such as inclement weather. This document is intended to clarify Saint John's Arboretum weather policy during field trips.

Field trips are scheduled throughout the entire year. As most field trips are scheduled well in advance, it is impossible to predict the weather for the specific day of the field trip. **Except in circumstances of extreme and severe weather, the field trip will go on outdoors as scheduled no matter what the weather.** If there is severe weather, we will make every attempt to reschedule the field trip. This policy is due to our busy field trip season and the extreme difficulty in rescheduling field trips.

Severe weather that would cause a field trip to be cancelled and rescheduled includes (but not limited to):

- Thunderstorms and lightning in the immediate area
- Thunderstorm or tornado warnings in the immediate area
- Winter storm warning in the immediate area
- Wind chill or temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Heat index or temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit

If the weather is severe the day of your field trip, the Arboretum staff will be in contact with you on the phone before school to make the call. The decision to hold the field trip will be a joint decision between Arboretum staff and the classroom teacher(s).

FIELD TRIP CANCELED DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER

If the trip is canceled due to severe weather, the Arboretum will make every attempt to reschedule the field trip. If rescheduling is not possible, we will refund any program fees.

FIELD TRIP CANCELED BY CLASSROOM TEACHER DUE TO INCLEMENT (not severe) WEATHER

If the classroom teachers decide to cancel the field trip due to inclement (but not severe) weather, we will refund any program fees. In this circumstance, if the classroom teacher wants to try and reschedule the field trip, the Arboretum will attempt to reschedule but due to our busy schedule, it is not guaranteed. Busing reimbursement is **not available** for groups that still come to campus for another event on that day but don't attend the Arboretum field trip.

FIELD TRIP AS SCHEDULED DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

If your class is scheduled to come on a day that has inclement but not severe weather, we will do our best to make accommodations during the class to make it the best experience possible for your students. We ask that you do the same for your students, including talking about the benefits of going outside in all weather! A roll of garbage bags makes a quick and easy raincoat for kids!

The weather is part of the natural world and we appreciate your understanding and patience when dealing with something so unpredictable. If you have any questions, please contact the Arboretum Environmental Education Coordinator listed below. Thank you.

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