



San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association
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Tips for Teachers, Parents, and Students

San Gabriel Canyon Education Center & Mt Baldy Visitor Center

- 1. Roles of teachers, parents, and chaperones:** Our staff and volunteers will structure your programs and experience but you are responsible for the behavior of your students. Please address unsafe, disruptive or non-responsive students as you would at school. We are in a small mountain community and need to be respectful of our neighbors, please discourage screaming and yelling. We expect parents and chaperones to be engaged in the activities while monitoring students. Please avoid cell phone use during the program.
- 2. Number of parents and chaperones:** Each group is allowed up to 2 chaperones per class, especially for younger students. We are unable to accommodate additional parents/chaperones.
- 3. Nametags:** Name tags help increase personal interactions and assist with group management. Please provide nametags for your students.
- 4. Dress:** Wear clothes that can get dirty. We are outdoors and also use many craft supplies during programs (glue, paint, etc.). Closed toe shoes are required. No sandals or flip flops. Long pants help students avoid stinging nettle, poison oak, and ticks.
- 5. Be prepared for weather:** San Gabriel Canyon / Mt Baldy Visitor Center tends to be 10-12 degrees cooler than the valleys. Weather can be unpredictable. We suggest dressing in layers (for example, a short sleeve shirt with a sweatshirt and a jacket). It is easier to take off extra clothes if you are warm than to be cold throughout the visit.
- 6. Water, Snacks, and Sunscreen:** Come prepared with water for all of your students. If you are going in the field during your visit, there are no drinking fountains. Do not drink water from any creek or stream. If your students are really young (K-1st, 2nd grade - optional), we recommend bringing snacks for them to munch on during the introduction. Sunscreen is also recommended.
- 7. Enjoy the mountains:** The San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association strives to provide a rich, rewarding experience for students, parents, and teachers. We hope you will have a safe, enjoyable visit.

Format of the Program

Upon arrival, we will confirm your departure time and structure the field trip schedule to ensure students are on the buses by the agreed-upon time. Most schools typically board buses between 1:00 pm and 1:30 pm. We are flexible with both arrival and departure times and are happy to accommodate schools that need to leave earlier.

Sample Schedule

Time	Activity
9:30 am	Arrival at Mt. Baldy Visitor Center or San Gabriel Canyon Ed Center
9:45 am	Large Group Welcome. Introduction to the forest, conservation, and public lands
10:00 - 12:00 pm	Activity Rotations. Students will divide into <i>three groups</i> and rotate through three activities. Each session lasts approximately 30–40 minutes, including transition time.
12:00 - 12:30 pm	Lunch Break. Students bring their own lunches or receive school-provided lunches.
12:30 - 1:00 pm	Closing Program – Reconvene as a large group for either a guided nature hike or a live animal presentation led by rangers.
1:00 - 1:30 p.m	Board buses (departure time adjusted based on your school's schedule)