



# The Butchart Gardens - Child & Youth Group Policy

**We welcome child & youth groups from October 15 – April 15 only**

**ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and based on availability**

- The Gardens will **only accommodate up to 60 children and/or youth at a time**
- Child and youth group **visits are restricted to a maximum of 2 hours**

*A signed copy must be returned to Group Services a minimum of 24 hours in advance of arrival.*

*This policy must be distributed to all teachers, adult and parent chaperones prior to visit.*

*Visit our [website](#) for more information*

The Butchart Gardens welcomes visitors from around the world who come to enjoy the splendor and tranquility of The Gardens. Please remember we are a Private Display Garden and **not a playground or park**. It is important for the children, youth and all chaperones to understand our expectations; appropriate behavior is expected otherwise your group may be asked to leave.

1. The Chaperone's role is to manage & supervise youth and children at all times while on property and expected to remain with their groups at all times during the visit (*this includes the gift shop, restaurants & carousel areas*).
2. Administrators, teachers and chaperones will be provided with identification badges which are to be displayed at all times while in The Gardens. Please return prior to departure.
3. Groups must break up into smaller units of 10 or less prior to coming through the turnstiles. (*Each group is to be accompanied by an adult chaperone*). Stagger each group through the entrance and then maintain space between each group throughout The Gardens.
4. No blocking of pathways or congregating in public squares is permitted. Walk and remain on the paths at all times. Do not climb on statues or other garden fixtures or in flower beds. No running, no catching or throwing games.
5. Be courteous and respectful of all visitors and follow The Gardens' Etiquette (*attached*).
6. Please talk quietly to maintain the tranquility of The Gardens. Music, musical instruments and performances of any kind are not permitted.
7. NO backpacks permitted in The Gardens except for medical reasons.
8. NO outside meals to be consumed in The Gardens. (small snacks are permitted in designated areas only, coordinated in advance) Water fountains are located around The Gardens for your convenience.
9. Groups are not permitted to participate in scavenger hunts as they are too disruptive to other visitors.

## Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the group leader, hereby acknowledge the responsibility of informing all children, youth, chaperones and accompanying adults of the above policies, and assure that they have read, understand and agree to the terms listed above.

**School or Group Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/time of arrival:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal** (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ **Onsite Contact number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Or Vice Principal \_\_\_\_\_ *Print Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizer or Group Leader** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Print Name* \_\_\_\_\_ *Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for cooperation to ensure all visitors enjoy their time at The Butchart Gardens.**

*All areas of The Butchart Gardens are 100% smoke and vapour free and selfie sticks are not permitted.*

**For Reservations: Group Services 250-652-4422 or [groupres@butchartgardens.com](mailto:groupres@butchartgardens.com)**



## Garden Etiquette

We have established Garden Etiquette for the enjoyment and safety of visitors, and to provide a tranquil atmosphere for all while visiting The Butchart Gardens. We reserve the right to deny entry or remove any person(s) acting in contravention of our rules. Thank you for your cooperation.

- Smoking or Vaping is not permitted anywhere on the premises.
- Visitors must conduct themselves in a respectful manner; disruptive behaviour, obscenities or activities unsuitable to The Gardens are not permitted.
- Costumes/Cosplay of any type, including historic or period dress, masks or attire that may create a distraction are not permitted as they could be mistaken for entertainers or interpreters hired by The Gardens and could detract from the experience of other visitors. Insurance and security considerations require strict adherence to this policy.
- Wedding parties, wedding photos, ceremonies, or clothing resembling wedding attire are not permitted in The Gardens, except as authorized during our Wedding Season, January 15 – March 15.
- Quiet voices are expected in all areas of The Gardens.
- Please stay on paths and be respectful of our plants; do not step in flower beds, pick flowers or fruit.
- No alcohol is allowed on the premises; our restaurants will be pleased to serve you.
- Pets must be kept on a short leash, and under control at all times; owners are required to clean up after them.
- Wheelchairs and children's strollers are available, for a small refundable deposit, at the Information Centre; do not mistreat or use these items for any other purpose.
- By pre-arrangement through our Group Services Department, chaperones responsible for the care and control of child and youth groups may be provided with complimentary admission.
- Visitors with wider than average wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or strollers must be patient and use extra caution as certain areas may not be easily accessible.
- Photography is welcome, but should not interfere with the enjoyment of other visitors; do not block pathways with tripods. Please note that selfie sticks cannot be used.

The following activities are prohibited while visiting The Gardens,

- Throwing, catching or kicking games, running or jogging.
- Wheeled-shoes, rollerblades, bicycles, scooters, Segways, skateboards or other recreational wheeled devices.
- Use of drones or kites.
- Music or unauthorized musical performances.
- Use of flashes for photographing or filming our Firework Shows.
- Distribution of any outside literature.
- Dispersal of ashes.

**The Butchart Gardens®**

