



## The Butchart Gardens - Child & Youth Group Policy

### ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and based on availability

- The Gardens will only accommodate up to 60 children and/or youth at a time (in groups of 10)
- One chaperone is required per 10 children/youth
- 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**. Children and youth are expected to be respectful, quite and walk calmly. 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. Chaperones are 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*). Please 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.
10. 1/2 price carousel tokens are available. Children are encouraged to run and play on our fireworks viewing lawn.

### 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.

<b>School or Group Name</b> _____	<b>Date/time of arrival:</b> _____
<b>Principal</b> (if applicable) Or Vice Principal _____	<b>Onsite Contact number:</b> _____
Print Name _____	Signature _____
<b>Organizer or Group Leader</b> _____	Signature _____
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

Our Garden Etiquette ensures the enjoyment and safety of visitors and provides 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 these rules. Thank you for your cooperation.

- All persons on Butchart Gardens' property must follow the direction of staff.
- **SELFIE STICKS ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Photography is welcome, but should not interfere with the enjoyment of other visitors; do not block pathways with tripods.
- Smoking and Vaping are not permitted anywhere on the premises.
- Visitors must conduct themselves in a respectful manner; obscene language or clothing, abusive behaviour or violence will not be tolerated and may result in removal from The Gardens.
- Youths must be supervised, and children must remain directly at your side and under control at all times.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 pick flowers or fruit, or step in flower beds.
- No alcohol is allowed on the premises; our restaurants will be pleased to serve you.
- Only B.C. Certified Guide & Service dogs are permitted in restaurants and Seed & Gift Store.
- Pets are not permitted inside The Gardens during our Christmas season between the hours of 3:00pm and 8:00pm; please check website for dates. At all other times of the year pets are welcome to visit provided they are kept on a short leash, directly at your side and under control at all times. You are expected to clean up after your pet.

The following are prohibited while visiting The Gardens,

- Throwing, catching or kicking games, running or jogging.
- Wheeled-shoes, rollerblades, bicycles, scooters, skateboards or other wheeled recreational devices.
- Segways.
- 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.
- Use of BBQ's of any kind.

**The Butchart Gardens**

