



Self-Guided EDventure



Welcome!

Thank you for making a reservation to participate in Self-Guided EDventure! For more than two decades Busch Gardens has been committed to delivering high quality, standards-based programs. We look forward to helping you meet your educational goals, while introducing your students to wildlife and wild places.

Please read through the following confirmation materials ***thoroughly*** to familiarize yourself with our program policies and procedures. These materials contain all of the information you need to ensure you are prepared for your upcoming field trip.

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Program Description

Take a walk on the wild side of Busch Gardens by choosing your own EDventure! During this educational program, students have the power to make this experience their own. Our exhibits will become uniquely engaging through the use of an interactive scavenger hunt. Along the way, students will witness animal adaptations first hand, and discover how they can protect wildlife. This self-guided program is designed for students Kindergarten – 5th grade and runs from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on select days.

Self-Guided EDventure connects with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, and includes an interactive scavenger hunt with animal information and pre/post field trip material with grade-based activities.

Standards: SC.K.L.14.1, SC.K.N.1.2, SC.K.N.1.5
SC.1.L.14.1, SC.1.L.17.1, SC.1.N.1.1
SC.2.L.14.1, SC.2.L.17.2, SC.2.N.1.1
SC.3.L.15.1, SC.3.N.1.1, SC.3.N.1.3
SC.4.L.16.3, SC.4.N.1.1, SC.4.N.1.3
SC.5.L.15.1, SC.5.L.17.1

Please Note: Due to the educational nature of this program, Self-Guided EDventure does NOT include access to rides and/or entertainment shows.

Price & Payment

Price

Standard School student rate is \$12.00 per student.

Title 1 School Student rate is \$8.00 per student.

Groups must have a minimum of 10 paid participants to reserve this program.

You will receive one free chaperone for every 10 paid students. Any additional chaperones are permitted at the student rate. Number of chaperones cannot exceed the number of students. Special Education groups may bring one adult for every one student at the student rate.

Price is for the program fee only. Park admission is not included or required to participate in this program.

Payment

Upon making a reservation, the Group Leader will receive an invoice. Please review the invoice to see your balance due. If any of the information needs to be updated, please call us at **(813) 987-5808** to speak to a member of our education team. Payment is accepted up to and including the date of your program, however, we **highly recommend** paying for your program at least one month in advance. This will allow our team to mail out program material, including your admission wristbands.

Price & Payment, continued

When paying in advance, please pay with one check, money order, or credit card. **NO CASH PLEASE**. Checks (school checks preferred) or money orders should be made payable to Busch Gardens Tampa and sent to:

Busch Gardens Tampa
Education Reservations
P.O. Box 9157
Tampa, FL 33674

If a personal check or personal credit card is used, tax will be applied to the payment. The state of Florida does not allow exceptions.

Payments made the day of the program can be in the form of a school credit card/check or money order (cash payments will not be accepted). Please include your confirmation number on all payments. Groups may not enter the park until final payment has been received.

Annual Pass Holders

Annual Passes **CAN** be applied toward the Self-Guided EDventure program fee. No other discounts or offers can be applied toward the program fee. Annual Pass holders **must bring** their annual passes with them and will proceed to the front gate as normal. Annual Pass holders will not receive a wristband. If they forget to bring their annual pass, they can purchase a wristband at the student rate.

Changes, Refunds, & Cancellations

For your convenience, we have not implemented fees to change the number of participants or to cancel a reservation. We ask to be notified as soon as possible regarding changes to your reservation or need to cancel.

To receive a refund for participants that are unable to attend, Group Leaders must bring back all unused admission wristbands. Only **unused** wristbands will be refunded.

Program elements are subject to change and/or cancellation. Busch Gardens education programs run “rain or shine.” Please be prepared to be outside for the duration of your visit.

Severe Weather

The safety and welfare of all park guests is of the utmost importance. When severe weather is near, our park observes strict weather protocols. When lightning has been spotted within 3 miles of our park, for everyone’s safety, guests and team members are required to seek shelter. Once the weather passes, activities may resume. We do not provide refunds due to inclement weather once Self-Guided EDventure activities have begun.

Self-Guided EDventure Final Checklist

Once a reservation is made, the Group Leader will be sent an electronic form to fill out called the Self-Guided EDventure Final Checklist. This will help us ensure we have all necessary information for your group. This Final Checklist will also provide reminders of important information Group Leaders should share with their groups to ensure everyone has an understanding of our Self-Guided EDventure program.

We ask that this electronic form be filled out three weeks before your program date.

Please Note: If we have not received the final checklist three weeks prior to the program date, the group may forfeit their reservation.

Admission Wristbands

School groups are given admission wristbands for each person participating in Self-Guided EDventure. The wristband identifies each participant and grants them access to Busch Gardens for this educational program. Wristbands are required to be worn for admittance and duration of the program.

All groups must **pay one month in advance** of their program date in order to have wristbands mailed in advance. Wristbands will be mailed to out approximately two weeks prior to their program date (if payment has been received). Reservations or groups who do not pay one month in advance will receive wristbands upon arrival. All participants must be wearing their wristbands before entering the park.

If you are not submitting payment until the day of the program, please allow for additional time for your check-in process to give all students a wristband. If you submitted payment more than two weeks prior to your program date, please have your participants wearing their wristbands prior to arriving at Busch Gardens.

Chaperones

Chaperones attending must stay for the entire program. Chaperones are expected to manage student behavior and ensure students are adhering to all safety guidelines. Any guests or siblings (older or younger) of participants attending the program will be included as a participant and will be charged the full program fee.

Chaperones will be given a program lanyard during check-in. This will indicate to Busch Garden employees that they are a participant with our Self-Guided EDventure. Chaperones are required to wear the program lanyard for the entire program and return it during check-out.

Parking

Bus Parking

Self-Guided EDventure Bus passes are sent electronically, to the Group Leader's email address. These bus passes will direct you to the bus loading/unloading zone for Busch Gardens. Here you will meet a member of our education team. Please have your pass clearly displayed in the bus window to allow our staff to easily recognize your group.

After the buses have unloaded, buses will be directed to park across the street in our main parking lot. If buses are not staying at Busch Gardens, we recommend that the Group Leader confirm what time the bus drivers will return at this time.

Personal Vehicle Parking

All chaperones are strongly encouraged to ride on the buses with students, as there is no chaperone parking. Any personal vehicles will be **required to pay** for general parking. From the parking lot, participants will ride the tram to the front entrance, and meet their group before the program begins.

Arrival

Self-Guided EDventure check-in begins at 9:45 AM and the program begins when the park opens at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to arrive on time as registration may take a few minutes. If your group will be late, please call and notify the Busch Gardens Educator on Duty at **(813)-600-0178**.

Please Note: Program components may be altered, abbreviated, or omitted due to any late arrivals.

If you have received admission wristbands in advance, please make sure all students are wearing their wristband before arriving to Busch Gardens. This will expedite your check-in process. For groups that did not submit payment one month prior, your wristbands can be picked up during check-in.

After your group has successfully checked-in with an education staff member, students will be instructed to unload the bus and proceed to the entrance of the park. For the safety of all park guests, please expect a security bag check upon entrance into the park.

Interactive Scavenger Hunt

The interactive scavenger hunt and pre/post field trip material will be sent to the Group Leader via their email address. Group Leaders are encouraged to share this material with all teachers and chaperones prior to the group's arrival.

This scavenger hunt, along with the supplemental material, is designed to enhance your students' experience. Chaperones can use these tools to guide their groups through select animal habitats. The scavenger hunt will also help groups identify key elements of our exhibits, which include animals' basic needs, physical adaptations, or behaviors.

Program Guidelines

It is the responsibility of the group leader to share the following information with all members of their group:

- To assure all participants have an equal opportunity to benefit from the program, we require participants to use appropriate behavior while visiting our park. Busch Gardens reserves the right to remove participants who are exhibiting inappropriate behavior.
- Please dress appropriately for the outdoors and forecasted weather. All education programs spend time outdoors and involve a considerable amount of walking. It is highly recommended that you bring water bottles for your group so that they will have water throughout the program. There will be opportunity during the program to visit water fountains to refill bottles. (Please do not bring drinks with straws).
- For security measures, guests and bags are subject to inspection when entering the park.

Departure

All Self-Guided EDventure groups must depart from the park no later than 1:00 p.m. A member of the education team will be present to check out all participants. At this time, chaperones will return their program lanyards. If your group needs to leave prior to 1:00 p.m., please make sure to note your specific departure time on the Self-Guided EDventure Final Checklist so that we can accommodate you.

Please Note: Groups that do not exit the park and check-out with an education staff member by 1:00 p.m. may be assessed additional charges.

Lunch Options

There are several lunch options available to help you customize your day. Please read through each one, and choose the option that works best for your group. Be sure to note how you will be enjoying lunch on the Self-Guided EDventure Final Checklist.

- **Option 1:** You may bring a snack to carry with you and eat your lunch when you arrive back at school. **This is the best option for schools to maximize their time at the animal exhibits.**
- **Option 2:** Students may carry their own lunches in easy to carry, soft-sided containers. Groups can carry them throughout the park and choose the lunch time and location that works best for their group. **This provides greatest flexibility as you plan your day.**
- **Option 3:** You may purchase your lunches at Busch Gardens. There are a variety of restaurants and food options to choose from! Please visit us at **www.buschgardens.com** to see updated information on menu options and pricing for kids' meals.
- **Option 4:** You may bring your own lunches in **SEALED** boxes or coolers, labeled with your school name. Busch Gardens educators will collect them at the drop-off area and transport them to a designated lunch location. You will be provided with a scheduled time and location for your group to eat lunch together. At the end of the day, your lunches will be brought back to the drop-off location to be loaded into your vehicles.

Shopping

During the Self-Guided EDventure, groups have the opportunity to shop and find the perfect souvenir! There are a variety of gift shops and kiosks throughout the park to choose from. The main plaza at the front of the park is a great place to stop at the end of your Self-Guided EDventure day.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we pay for our Self-Guided EDventure the day of the program?

YES, however we strongly recommend paying one month in advance. We will only mail out wristbands to groups that have paid one month prior to their program date. Any group that has not paid by this date will receive their wristbands upon arrival, which may delay entry into the park.

Will we have a guide today?

The Self-Guided EDventure program is self-guided. We offer guided educational programs for an additional fee. You can review our guided educational programs at **www.buschgardens.com**.

Do participants using their annual pass towards the program fee need a wristband?

NO, participants using their annual pass will not receive a wristband. They must bring their annual pass with them and present it at the front gate to gain admission into the park. If a participant does not have their annual pass, they will need to purchase a wristband at the student rate.

Does this program go behind-the-scenes?

This program does not go behind-the-scenes of any of our animal habitats.

Will we have an animal encounter or educational show during the program?

The Self-Guided EDventure program focuses on making our animal exhibits uniquely engaging through the use of an interactive scavenger hunt. This program **does not** include an animal encounter or a show. We offer guided educational programs that do have animal encounters included for an additional fee. You can review our guided educational programs at **www.buschgardens.com**.

I paid for a group of participants that did not show up. Can I get a refund?

To receive a refund for participants that are unable to attend, Group Leaders must bring back all unused wristbands. Only unused wristbands will be refunded.

Are rides and the entertainment shows included on this program?

The Self-Guided EDventure program focuses on making our animal exhibits uniquely engaging through the use of an interactive scavenger hunt. The park attractions, such as the roller coasters, midway games, Safari of Fun, etc. **are not** included with this program. We offer guided educational programs that do offer access to the park attractions for an additional fee. You can review our guided educational programs at **www.buschgardens.com**.

Can we arrive late?

Program components may be altered, abbreviated, or omitted due to any late arrivals after 10:00 a.m. If you anticipate a delay, please contact the Education Office at **813-600-0178** and notify the staff of your estimated arrival time.

Frequently Asked Questions, continued

Can Stay & Play admission tickets be added to our reservation?

Stay & Play Admission Add-On tickets are **not** available for this program. This add-on option is only available for groups participating in one of our guided programs. You can review our guided educational programs at **www.buschgardens.com**.

Can I reschedule my group's trip?

Please be sure to check your school calendar and bus/transportation availability before reserving your field trip to avoid any conflicts with the field trip day you reserve. Rescheduling is subject to availability.

Can a Serengeti Safari be added to our reservation?

Serengeti Safari is **not** an available add-on for this program. This add-on option is only available for groups participating in one of our guided programs. You can review our guided educational programs at **www.buschgardens.com**.