

Guidelines for Interpretive Hikes

1. Please wear clothing suitable for inclement weather and hiking on uneven surfaces. Wear walking shoes – no flip flops or sandals.
2. Scheduled hikes proceed rain or shine, however Taltree will cancel the hike if lightening or tornadic conditions are present.
3. Insect repellent is encouraged. Please provide for your participants.
4. Please inform your students that this is an extension of the classroom and not recess. We trust that teachers will take notes and in some fashion determine what their students learn and retain. Teachers and chaperones must maintain class discipline during the time they are at Taltree.
5. Our docents are trained volunteers sharing their love of nature, our gardens and their knowledge of Taltree; they need attentive children to make the experience beneficial for all.
6. Please have participants bring reusable water bottles for drinking while on the trail. Please note: there is one water fountain on site. Please bring additional water as your needs dictate.
7. For those schools bringing sack lunches, we ask that lunches remain on the bus until after the hikes and other activities are complete. Please bring large trash bags to take lunch refuse back to the school. Due to the outdoor setting and an abundance of raccoons, all trash must be removed from Taltree.
8. If you wish us to cover information of a specific topic to coincide with your current curriculum, please advise Taltree when the hike is scheduled and also note on Hike Registration Form.
9. Buses should park in the gravel lot. Please call the Taltree Office at 219-462-0025, if you will be late. Taltree will not hold the docents beyond 20 minutes after the scheduled hike start time.
10. Hikes require a minimum of three weeks' notice to schedule. Your hike will remain "tentative" until Taltree receives a *non-refundable* \$40 hike deposit. Hike deposit must be received by Taltree at least two weeks prior to the hike date. Please make deposit check payable to *Taltree Arboretum & Gardens* and mail with the registration form to 71 North 500 West, Valparaiso, IN 46385. If Taltree has not received the hike deposit by the deadline, we shall consider the hike cancelled.
11. There is a \$4 fee per participant (students, teachers and/or chaperones) for groups of 20 or more, with the balance due on the date of the hike. Please pay the gate attendant at Taltree's main entrance located at 450 West 100 North, Valparaiso, IN 46385.

** Taltree will attempt to accommodate any special needs with prior notification.

We trust these guidelines will help make your Taltree experience extraordinary.

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens

Main Entrance: 450 West 100 North

Valparaiso, IN 46385

219-462-0025 www.taltree.org

Email: info@taltree.org

Interpretive Hike Registration Form

Date of Hike: _____ Start time: _____
Game requested: YES / NO Corresponding curriculum topic: _____
Name of School/Group: _____
Address: _____
City/ST/Zip: _____
Contact Person & Title: _____
Contact Phone Nos.: Bus. () _____ Cell () _____
Contact Email Address: _____
Approx. number of children: _____ Age/grade range: _____
Approx. number of adults: _____
Approx. TOTAL # of participants: _____
Additional info: _____

**Hikes last approximately 1.5 hrs.

Hike Example 1: 10 -11:30 am Docent-led Interpretive Hike through Arboretum
 11:30 am Leisurely sack lunch break in pavilion area

Hike Example 2: 10 - 11:00 am Docent-led Interpretive Hike through Arboretum
 11 - 11:15 am Break
 11:15 - 11:45 am Docent-led educational game
 11:45 am Leisurely sack lunch break in pavilion area

Fees: \$4 per person for groups of 20+ / \$5 per person for 1-19 people

****A non-refundable \$40 deposit is necessary to secure your hike date. Hikes require a minimum of three weeks' notice to schedule, and two weeks minimum for Taltree's receipt of the deposit.** Balance is due on date of the hike. Hikes proceed rain or shine. If Taltree cancels due to extreme weather, i.e. tornadic conditions or lightening, deposit will be returned.

Please make checks payable to *Taltree Arboretum & Gardens*. Mail check and registration form to business address: Taltree Business Office, 71 North 500 West, Valparaiso, IN 46385.

Date: _____ School/group representative signature: _____