

# Youth Group Planning Kit



Please carefully review these materials prior to your visit to ensure an enjoyable and successful experience.

All inquiries and correspondence regarding group visits may be directed to:

630 260 8162 [fieldtrips@cantigny.org](mailto:fieldtrips@cantigny.org)

## The Basics

### The Park

Located at 1 S 151 Winfield Road in Wheaton, Illinois, Cantigny's 500-acre park offers educational and recreational experiences for youth groups through tours of our two museums: the Robert R. McCormick Museum (guided tour) and the Cantigny First Division Museum (self guided tour), and exploration of our gardens and Tank Park.

### Grades/ Ages Served

Cantigny Park and its two museums are open to children of all ages. Museum tours are typically geared for children age 10 and older. Tours may be added to your group itinerary at your group leader's discretion. The Robert R. McCormick Museum offers guided tours on a set schedule. The First Division Museum is self guided and includes mature content.

### Admission

\$5 per car or van (less than 17 person capacity) weekdays between 10am-5pm, \$2 per car or van between 7-10 am and 5pm-sunset (9-10 am and 4pm-sunset Nov 1– Apr 30), \$40 per large van or mini-bus (18-34 person capacity) and \$80 per bus or motor coach (35 + person capacity).

### Tours

The museums are closed on Mondays, but the park is open and available for self guided outdoor field trips. The entire park is closed in January. In February, the park is open Friday-Sunday only.

Youth groups visiting both museums should allow 2 1/2 hours to visit both museums and walk between them. Additional time should be included to explore the grounds, gardens and tank park or to eat lunch.

### Group Size

Up to 90 youth may be scheduled for visits including museum tours. This number does not include chaperones. **The total number of people allowed per visit including museum tours is 100.** Larger groups may reserve two back-to-back time blocks or two days. Visits without museum tours have no maximum.

**If touring museums, please divide your total group into groups of no more than 25 before you arrive at the park. Be sure every youth and chaperone knows which group they belong in.**

### Chaperones

One chaperone is required for every 10 children. Children must be accompanied by a chaperone at all times.

### Lunch

Brown bag lunches may be eaten in our picnic area. Box lunches are available for purchase. Your group may choose to dine in Le Jardin and preorder lunches off a fixed menu. Reservations are required. *See page 4 for more information regarding lunch.*

### Accessibility

The Visitors Center and First Division Museum are fully accessible. The Robert R. McCormick Museum has a ramped entrance to the first floor for wheelchairs and will provide a first floor only tour for any visitor unable to climb stairs. Please note in your reservation if you have any youth or leaders using a wheelchair, or who have difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

### Information to Share with Children and Chaperones

- Children are expected to demonstrate consideration for other visitors and fellow children during their visit.
- In order to safeguard the exhibits from potential damage, no food, drink or gum is permitted in the museums.
- So that our staff can facilitate an enjoyable and educational field trip, we ask that leaders and accompanying chaperones attend to any discipline issues that may arise.
- In order for our gardens to remain beautiful for all our guests, we ask that visitors do not pick the flowers or walk through flower beds. Please use designated paths in the garden areas.

**i Restrooms are located in the Visitors Center, both museums, the Outdoor Education Center and the picnic area.**

### Once You Arrive

- Upon arrival, you will check-in at the front gate and the guard will verify your reservation and collect your parking fee. If you arrive on a mini-bus or full size bus, the guard will direct the bus driver to the drop-off zone at the Visitors Center. Your bus driver will temporarily park in front of the Visitors Center (designated bus pick-up and drop-off zone) and guests will disembark the bus. Cars and vans should park in the public parking lot in front of the Visitors Center.
- You will not have a docent or park representative meet you at the Visitors Center, but our visitor services volunteer, at the information desk, can assist you if you need help.
- We recommend your group start their visit watching the 8-minute introductory film in the theater in the Visitors Center. After the film, make sure group leaders have a map of the park and know their tour times. Please arrive at the museums at your scheduled tour times.
- If you reserved a Recreation Pack or PEAK Pack you may pick it up at the Visitors Center information desk after 9:00 am.

### Think Green

Cantigny is proud to be part of the international “green” initiative for a healthier planet. We are dedicated to doing everything we can to make our Earth a safer and healthier place to live now and for generations to come.

**Please ask your bus driver to park and TURN OFF their bus after dropping off the passengers.**

Cantigny’s parking lots are no-idle zones. In following with House Bill 4782, stationary diesel vehicles of more than 8,000 pounds may not idle for more than 10 minutes. The exceptions to that rule are when it is below 32 or above 80 degrees outside or during an emergency.



## Exploring Cantigny

There is a lot to see and do at Cantigny!

### Cantigny Gardens

Overload your senses with the stunning sights, tranquil sounds and aromatic scents of Cantigny's Formal Gardens. Created by renowned landscape architect Franz Lipp, enjoy the views of this horticultural masterpiece that include annual and perennial flowers, ground covers, flowering bulbs, and a variety of shrubs and trees from the Midwest.

The Idea Garden, featuring a herb garden, fruit and vegetable gardens and creative flower beds and plantings including a giant chess board and Loch Ness Monster topiary is also a feast for the senses. Be sure to stroll through the Rose Garden as well, where you will find 55 varieties of roses.

*The Idea Garden is getting a facelift this summer— please pardon our mess!*

### Hiking Trail

The wood chip trail is approximately 2 1/2 miles long and follows the perimeter of the park. Interactive tree identification guides are available for groups and may be picked up at the Information Desk in the Visitors Center. The guide is best used in the summer and early fall when the trees have leaves. Please bring your own pencils.

### Tank Park

The First Division Foundation has 11 tanks in the tank park in front of and alongside of the First Division Museum, as well as an Armored Personnel Carrier and three artillery pieces. They are all inoperable displays of United States Army equipment. Children are free to climb on the tanks and experience them up close. Each tank is labeled with a sign indicating the type of tank, its weight, years of usage, and number of crew members.

### Playground and Fitness Circuit

Our playground is located north of the main parking lot, past the picnic area. Young visitors will love the swings, slides, and climbers. Next to our playground is the ParCourse Fitness Circuit, featuring a vault bar, chin up bar, log hop, and body curl station, and other challenging stop points. Children can test their endurance, strength, and flexibility on this challenging course. Restrooms and drinking fountains are located nearby in the picnic area.

### Recreation Packs

Games or sports may be played in the large meadow area on the south side of the public parking lot near the bandshell or in the parade field in front of the Visitors Center. Borrow one of our Recreation Packs and have all the equipment you need for a variety of games at your fingertips. We have two Packs available - one geared for families with mixed ages and one geared for 3-10 year olds in day camps and youth groups. Visit [www.Cantigny.org](http://www.Cantigny.org) or call 630 260 8162 to reserve.

**The Family Pack includes:** A football, a soccer ball, 2 Frisbees, a horseshoe set, two baseball bats, a baseball tee, bases and baseballs, 6 potato sacks, 4 'scoop and toss' cups and balls, and 6 orange cones. Activity ideas and instructions are included. Advance reservations are not accepted for our family pack. The family pack is available on a first come, first serve basis.

**The Youth Group Pack includes:** A football, a soccer ball, 2 Frisbees, a parachute, 6 potato sacks, ostrich egg relay race equipment, Bucket Blast game equipment and 6 orange cones. Activity ideas and instructions are included. The youth group pack must be reserved at least **one week in advance**. A reservation confirmation will be sent.

Recreation Packs can be picked up out at our Visitors Center Information Desk. For either Pack, a valid driver's license is required as a deposit at check-out time and a usage agreement must be signed. The Family Recreation Pack must be returned in its original condition before park close (sunset). The Youth Group Pack must be returned in its original condition after the three hour 'rental' period. *Packs loaned out after 2:00 pm may only have 1-2 hours of usage depending on when the Pack was checked out. (The Pack must be returned by 5:00 pm)*

## PEAK Packs

Cantigny is proud to offer PEAK Packs for use by schools and youth groups. PEAK Packs introduce and explore the concepts of Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is a set of principles for participation in outdoor recreation that seeks to minimize the impact on the natural environment. The program strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts.

Cantigny offers two Packs for use during a park visit:

The **PEAK Pack** includes six fun and engaging field-tested Activities, which are designed to teach kids age 6-12 about Leave No Trace. Each activity or "module" can be delivered in 30-60 minutes depending on group size, available time, etc.

The **Teen Activity Pack** is a supplement to the PEAK program and consists of four educational activities designed for older youth audiences. These activities include: "Principle Presentation", "Ethics Game", "How Prepared are You?" and "Unlocking the Past." The hands-on activities have been used to educate both teens and adults about Leave No Trace.

**Fees and reservations:** PEAK Packs are available at no charge. A valid driver's license is required as a deposit at check-out time and a usage agreement must be signed. Teachers/Leaders are asked to reserve packs at least **one week in advance**. Visit [www.Cantigny.org](http://www.Cantigny.org) or call 630 260 8162 to reserve. PEAK Packs are available for pickup at the Visitors Center Information Desk at 9:00 am. PEAK Packs must be returned in their original condition after the three hour 'rental' period. *PEAK Packs loaned out after 2:00 pm may only have 1-2 hours of usage depending on when the Pack was checked out. (Packs must be returned by 5:00 pm)*

## Boxed Lunches and Picnicking at Cantigny

The picnic area, seating 300, is available to groups on a first-come, first-serve basis. A playground, restrooms, trash cans and recycling bins are located in the picnic area. We are unable to store sack lunches for groups— please them leave in your vehicle or carry in leak proof sacks. An indoor lunch space is not available should the weather be inclement.

Boxed lunches are available for purchase through Le Jardin. **Please call 630 260 8260 for menus, options and pricing.**



## Lunch at Le Jardin

Cantigny is proud to offer daily lunch service at Le Jardin Restaurant, adjacent to the Visitors Center. Take advantage of the beautiful view of Cantigny's lush gardens, from our dining room or patio. Choose from a variety of specialty lunch items our award winning culinary team has created for you. Lunch is served seven days a week April-October, from 11:00am-2:00pm.

A few steps from Le Jardin is Bertie's Gourmet Coffee Shop. Bertie's has a satisfying selection of coffee, teas, smoothies, ice cream and fresh pastries.

### *Le Jardin Children's Menu*

Grilled Cheese and chips \$3.00

Hot Dog and chips \$3.00

Chicken Tenders and chips \$4.50

Mac n' Cheese and chips \$3.00

**Please call 630 260 8260 for full menu and reservations. Advanced reservations are required for groups over 10 people.**