Unique Field Trips for Schools, After-School Programs, Summer Camps, and Scouts
Filoli Field Trips

Filoli is a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting our rich history with a vibrant future through beauty, nature and shared stories.

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Santa Cruz Mountains in Woodside, there is not a more unique field trip location in the Bay Area than Filoli’s historic House, Garden and Nature Preserve. Filoli is one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century. Here, students will explore the past while making meaningful connections to their own lives.

With four programs to choose from, Filoli offers schools a range of experiences for students to participate in throughout their elementary school education. Students will use all their senses to observe art and nature, take time to draw and reflect and will be given opportunities to inquire and discover.

“Thank you for the beautiful and educational field trip! I’m just at a loss for words at how amazing this experience is for all of our students. I’m near tears just thinking about all the beauty they were surrounded by! Truly an amazing trip!”

- Teacher, LEAD Elementary
Registration

Registration for the school year opens in mid-August. Registrations are taken online only at www.filoli.org/field-trips. Please check your school’s vacation and testing days prior to registering.

FEES

Program fees are per class, up to 35 students
Fee includes adults, as allowed by the Chaperone Policy (see below)
House & Garden Experience: $230
Plein Air Art Exploration: $230
Patterns in the Garden: $230
Nature Hike: $300

CHAPERONE POLICY

Is your class taking a bus? The maximum number of adults is 5, including the teacher.

Is your class arriving by car? You may bring 1 adult for every 3 students.

Classes that exceed the number of adults will be asked to pay general admission prices for these additional adults.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Filoli’s cancellation policy and associated fees are posted online.

PICNICS

You are invited to bring lunch and eat at Filoli’s picnic area after your program.

Fee Waivers and Bus Support

Through the support of individual donors and foundations, Filoli offers opportunities for students from underserved schools to experience art, nature, the Bay Area environment and Filoli’s historical relevance.

Limited fee waivers and bus support are offered on a first-come, first-served basis to schools in which 50% or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Apply for fee waivers and bus support when you register online.
**House & Garden Experience**

Grades: K-5  
Fee: $230  
Arrival time: 9:40am  
Program time: 10:00am-12:00pm  
Stations led by chaperones and Filoli Guides

Activities in the House and Garden connect students to art, architecture, history and the people who lived in and cared for the estate.

Chaperones lead students through activities in the Garden. Students will:
- Play croquet on the lawn
- Arrange flowers in the Cutting Garden
- Find special art objects in the Garden
- Assemble an architectural puzzle of the House facade

Filoli Guides lead students through activities in the House. Students will:
- Dance to swing music in the grand ballroom
- Write a check for farm supplies in the library
- Set a tea tray in the butler’s pantry

“I heard comments like, “Best day ever!” and many said they didn’t want to leave. This was a whole new experience for most of them and they loved it.”

- Teacher, George Mayne Elementary

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**Curriculum Connections**

This program is rich with content and HSSC connections. Each student receives an Experience Guide which will help them find relevance in the experiences of others and make connections to how they live now.

Students compare and contrast everyday life and recognize that some aspects of life change over time while others stay the same. They use maps and compare transportation methods of earlier days with how they travel now.
**Plein Air Art Exploration**

Grades: 3-8  
Fee: $230  
Arrival time: 9:40am  
Program time: 10:00am-12:00pm  
Led by Filoli Guides with chaperone assistance

Students experience the tranquility and beauty of Filoli while learning to paint plein air, or “in the open air.” It is an exhilarating and one-of-a-kind experience to be immersed in art and nature in Filoli’s Garden and Nature Preserve.

During this program, students will:

- Take a short hike on the Nature Preserve and paint a scene of the sweeping agricultural fields and the mountains beyond
- Find a flower or plant in the formal garden that inspires them, then closely study and paint it
- Learn to use new techniques and tools including watercolor pencils and a waterbrush
- Discuss examples of artwork from plein air masters and modern artists
- Engage in conversation about composition, color and expression

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**Curriculum Connections**

The careful and deliberate observation needed to study a subject closely and capture it in art is a great foundation for many academic activities.

Students perceive and respond to works of art, objects in nature and the surrounding environment. They use the vocabulary of the visual arts to express their observations and discuss their own work — from light sources, to focal points, to evoking mood through the use of color.
Patterns in the Garden

Grades: K-2
Fee: $230
Arrival time: 9:40am
Program time: 10:00am-11:30am
Led by Filoli Guides with chaperone assistance

Filoli’s historic Garden provides abundant examples of natural and human-made patterns: the shapes of shrubs in the formal garden; time observed at the sundial; and sound patterns made by birds.

Guides will lead activities and help students explore the Garden where they will:

▶ Play with shadows and discuss the movement of the sun
▶ Talk about weather and seasons and how they effect our everyday lives
▶ Look for lizards and butterflies and discuss how markings on their bodies help them survive
▶ Do a leaf rubbing to show leaf veins, then discuss how the veins help the plant
▶ Document patterns in bird sounds and learn what the sounds might mean
▶ Follow bee activity and learn that many plants depend on animals for pollination
▶ Use a visual vocabulary to hunt for a variety of shapes and patterns
▶ Collect and measure leaves and flowers

Curriculum Connections

This program gives students field examples of the NGSS Crosscutting Concepts: Patterns and Structure and Function. Observing patterns and shapes in nature - through discussion and writing and drawing in their activity booklets - gives clues to how animals and plants survive and interact with each other and their environment.

Students practice analyzing and interpreting data, and obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.
Nature Hikes
Grades: 3-5
Fee: $300
Arrival time: 9:40am
Program time: 10:00am-12:00pm
Led by Filoli Guides with chaperone assistance

Among Bay Area hikes, Filoli’s 656 acres offer unparalleled variety. Students visit many natural and human-made plant communities on the Estate, including the newt pond, redwood groves, oak woodlands, agricultural fields, the formal garden and even the compost area.

During this challenging 1.5 mile trek through the Nature Preserve, students will:
- Trace how people have used the land and natural resources, from the native Ohlone people, to loggers, to the families who lived at Filoli
- Identify evidence of an animal’s presence by studying tracks, scat, and bones along the trails
- Discover how plants depend on animals for pollination or seed dispersal, and how animals depend on plants for food and shelter
- Hunt for fungus, banana slugs and other decomposers
- Visit the Sally MacBride Nature Center to view native animal specimens

“The Nature Notebook helped the students stay focused and fulfilled their need to be scientists.”
- Teacher, Central Elementary

Curriculum Connections
Nature hikes are built on the NGSS Disciplinary Core Idea that all living things are interdependent. Students discover that plants, animals, and people interact in incredible and surprising ways.

Using their Nature Notebooks, students hone their skills of observation and documentation. Guides lead them through scientific methods to identify, discuss, and document plants and animals, as well as the informative evidence plants and animals leave behind.
After-School Programs & Camp Field Trips

Children enjoy Filoli and its unique, bountiful resources through interactive and engaging programming. Filoli offers camps and after-school programs field trips with the same pricing and program options as schools.

Programs are available during Filoli’s open hours: 10:00am to 5:00pm. Picnic tables are available for snack or lunch.

Filoli requires adults from your organization to act as chaperones during the program. Ratios are based on the number of students in your group. Contact Filoli staff to select a program suitable for your group size and ages of the children in your program: youthprograms@filoli.org.

Scouts

Filoli’s Nature Preserve offers two unique opportunities for scouts and their troop leaders to explore art and nature: Plein Air Art Experience and Nature Hikes. Filoli’s Guides can highlight animals or plants relevant to badges scouts are working towards.

Scout programs are 90 minutes to 2 hours long, depending on the age of the children. Scout groups may also take a self-guided tour of the House and Garden after their Hike or Plein Air Art Exploration and may use the picnic tables for snack or lunch.

Pricing for scout groups is per person plus a fee for each Guide. Details are available at www.filoli.org/field-trips.