



## Hoppy Birthday Parties in the Children's Garden!

With nearly two acres of hands-on activities and outdoor play, the Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden: A Missouri Adventure is a wonderful place to have a birthday celebration you'll never forget! Your party guests can jump, climb, and slide their way to birthday fun.

**Online reservations are now available!**

**Call (314) 577-5185 for questions or reservation processing assistance.**



**Availability:** April through October on Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 1 to 3 p.m. Advance reservations are required.

### Certain black-out dates apply for 2019 Birthday Parties:

- Meet Me Outdoors in St. Louis - Festival Weekend (April 6-7, 2019)
- Chinese Culture Days (April 27-28, 2019)
- Green Living Festival (June 1, 2019)
- Japanese Festival (August 31-September 1, 2019)
- Best of Missouri Market (October 5-6, 2019)
- Ghouls in the Garden (October 27, 2019)
- Children's Garden Closing Weekend (November 2-3, 2019)

**Fees:** A \$200 rental fee (\$175 for members) provides you with:

- Admission for up to 30 guests (children and adults) to both the Garden and Children's Garden. Parties are required to have at least 1 adult per 5 children. Regular admission rates for the Garden and Children's Garden apply to additional guests.
- Two hour rental of the Children's Garden Town Hall decorated with a personalized Hoppy Birthday banner.
- A special Hoppy Birthday t-shirt for the birthday child.
- An additional \$50 refundable cleaning deposit is required at the time of your reservation. If the Town Hall is left clean and in good repair when your party is over, your deposit will be refunded within 5 business days after your party. Please note refunds issued by check may take up to 4 weeks. The Garden reserves the right to retain this cleaning deposit if the Town Hall is left untidy or in disrepair.

### Extras:

- Additional child-sized (XS-L) birthday t-shirts      \$8.00 each
- Water bottles, Child's "Green" Canteen                      \$5.00 each

**Reservations:** Reservations must be made at least 10 business days in advance. Fee and cleaning deposit are due at time of reservation. Reserve your party online today. Payment may be made by MasterCard, Visa, or Discover. For questions, call (314) 577-5185.

**Cancellations:** Birthday Parties in the Children’s Garden Town Hall are held rain or shine, unless the Children’s Garden is closed due to severe weather. Should you choose to cancel your party 5 business days prior to the party date, you will receive a full refund, minus the \$50 deposit. Refunds cannot be issued for missed parties or cancellations less than 5 business days prior to the party. A business day is defined as Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., no Saturdays, Sundays, or federal holidays. If the Missouri Botanical Garden must cancel your party due to inclement weather, we will work to notify you as soon as possible and try to reschedule your party or we will issue you a full refund.

**Chaperones:** Make sure to include adults in your party! The Missouri Botanical Garden requires 1 adult chaperone for every 5 children, and the children must be attended by an adult at all times.

**Parking:** Plan to arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled party time to allow for parking and walking to the Children’s Garden. Free parking is available on site and is subject to availability. Additional free off-street parking is available two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

**Inclement Weather:** The Town Hall in the Children’s Garden is an outdoor space; although it is roofed it is partially open to the outside. Birthday parties are held rain or shine, so encourage your party guests to come dressed for the weather. The Children’s Garden closes only in the case of lightning and severe weather. If there is a chance that the Children’s Garden may be closed due to severe weather prior to your arrival, please call \*(314) 577-5101\* for more information.

### Things to Remember

- If you choose to enhance the Town Hall with your own decorations, **please adhere to the following decoration policies: balloons, tape, tacks, stickies, and staples of any kind are prohibited.** Your party is responsible for leaving the Town Hall clean and in good repair in order to have your cleaning deposit refunded.
- **Picnicking is not permitted on Garden grounds. However, you are welcome to bring a birthday cake, cupcakes, or cookies and child-friendly beverages** (e.g., juice boxes) for the celebration. Make sure to remember your serving utensils, dishes, plates, and cups. If you don’t want to serve your guests cake, consider a fruit platter or individual yogurts as an alternative. Additionally, birthday party guests are welcome to enjoy lunch after or before your party from the menu in Sassafras Café located in the Ridgway Visitor Center.
- **Glass and alcohol are not permitted in the Children’s Garden.**
- **The Town Hall will be decorated with a personalized birthday banner and green and blue plastic table coverings.** Crayons are provided for the children to sign and add drawings to the birthday banner, which becomes a great keepsake for your child’s birthday experience with us.
- **A *Private Party in Progress* sign will be placed at the entrance of the Town Hall** ensuring that other visitors in the Children’s Garden are aware the Town Hall has been reserved for you.
- **Allow plenty of walking time.** You may wish to bring a wagon for transporting gifts and supplies to and from the Children’s Garden. The Garden is unable to accommodate transportation service requests.

- **The Splash Area in the Children’s Garden turns on when it hits 70 degrees to help keep kids and their families cool.** You and your guests are welcome to enjoy this area and may want to bring swimwear or a change of clothes.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**May I bring additional children and adults to the party?** Your birthday party package and the Town Hall have a maximum capacity of party seating for 30 guests (children and adults). Regular admission rates for the Garden and Children’s Garden apply to additional guests. Please understand that additional guests may experience standing room only in the Town Hall.

**When can we setup for the party in the Town Hall?** All party hosts are asked to respect hours of operation and understand that the Children’s Garden opens at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m., daily. We are unable to accommodate requests for opening prior to 9 a.m. Your reservation is for a 2 hour block of time. The education team makes sure the **Town Hall is set and ready for you approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of your party.** If your party starts at 10 a.m., we will do our best to have the space ready for you to start setting up after 9:30 a.m. If your party starts at 1 p.m., please keep in mind that we host two parties per day most weekends. We need to ensure the space is cleaned, reset, and prepped for your party and will do our best to have the space ready for you to setup after 12:30 p.m.

**When I arrive, where should I check in and meet my guests?** It is recommended that you and your party guests arrive at Ridgway Visitor Center at least 30 minutes before the party to allow plenty of time to walk to the Children’s Garden. You or a representative from your group should meet and greet your guests outside the Garden’s Ridgway Visitor Center entrance, put on wristbands all party guests (both children and adults), and enter together.

**How do I get to the Children’s Garden?** The Children’s Garden is located just west of the Climatron® conservatory. Take the right path upon entering the Garden, and look to your right after passing the Climatron®. A map is included in party confirmation packs. Additional maps are available in the Ridgway Visitor Center and online.

**Is there transportation available to take us to the Children’s Garden?** The Garden is not able to provide transportation from the Garden’s main entrance to the Children’s Garden. Wheelchairs, electric scooters, and strollers may be requested in the Ridgway Visitor Center at the Ticket Counter. Some are subject to additional fees and all are subject to availability.

**What are the options for transporting my decorations, cake, and gifts?** You may wish to bring a stroller or wagon for transporting gifts and supplies to and from the Children’s Garden. (Transportation is not available.)

**Do you provide candles and matches?** The Garden is a National Historic Landmark. In order to preserve this historic gem, there is no smoking on the grounds and matches, candles, and fire are prohibited. Many of our birthday parties have found creative alternatives to candles like pinwheels or battery operated musical candles. We appreciate your cooperation.