



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
October 30, 2008

The New York Botanical Garden Offers Members A New Benefit: Children's Birthday Parties Featuring a Visit to the *Holiday Train Show*

On Sundays between November 23, 2008 and January 6, 2009, Members of The New York Botanical Garden can take advantage of an opportunity to celebrate their child's birthday in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, with a party in the GreenSchool and visit to the legendary *Holiday Train Show* in the exhibition galleries of the glittering glasshouse.

The party package includes a tour of the *Holiday Train Show*, pizza and beverages from Catania's Pizzeria and Café of "Little Italy" in the Bronx, all paper goods, a party coordinator, and an instructor from the Botanical Garden's Children's Education department who will conduct a fun gingerbread house activity with party guests. The "icing on the cake" for birthday parties booked this season is a visit to the *Holiday Train Show*, which features large-scale model trains traversing more than 140 replicas of New York landmarks—all created from plant parts such as berries, pine cones, leaves and seeds—and is one of the most eagerly anticipated family traditions of the season.

Birthday party slots are available 10 a.m.–12 p.m. on Sundays between November 23 and January 6. The basic package allows for ten children and ten accompanying adults to attend the party. Interested Botanical Garden Members should contact the Garden's Group Tours department at 718.817.8687 for availability and fee information.

Garden Party Raves

Garden birthday parties have received rave reviews from Members since the program debuted in summer 2008. "The children enjoyed digging in the dirt and watering the plants," said Ms. Catherine McGibney who held her daughter's 3rd birthday party in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden, an expansive site on the Botanical Garden's grounds that teaches children about plants and the natural world through hands-on gardening. "Everyone had a good time! Both the parents and children loved being in the Garden," Ms. McGibney said.

Karen O'Brien celebrated her son's 6th birthday with a party in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, a 12-acre indoor/outdoor science museum where children explore, experience, and discover nature. "The birthday party included lots of fun and educational activities for the children. Everything was organized really nicely for them," said Ms. O'Brien. She added that the children, "enjoyed participating in a fall scavenger hunt."

Parties booked between January 7 and May 31, 2009 will include a visit to the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687 for additional information.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway.

HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS: During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 23–January 11, The New York Botanical Garden will be open 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday. Closed all day on November 27 and December 25. Closing at 3 p.m. on December 5 and December 24. Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays and during Christmas week: November 28, 29, December 6, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1, 2.

PRICING: Adults \$20, Seniors/Students \$18, Children \$10. Advance timed tickets are strongly advised and are available online at www.nybg.org. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org.

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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