

urban advantage

science initiative

family guide

2020-2021

A free opportunity to explore science with
your child at New York City's zoos, museums,
botanical gardens, and aquarium.

urbanadvantagenyc.org



Dear Urban Advantage Family,

Congratulations! Your child's school is participating in Urban Advantage- an exciting school science initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to experience New York City's science-rich cultural institutions and engage in out of school science experiences. Along with your child, the entire family will have the opportunity to enjoy the City's museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and the NY Aquarium. This booklet describes the program and explains how your family can take advantage of FREE admission to any of the eight Urban Advantage science-rich cultural institutions.

What is Urban Advantage?

Urban Advantage is a citywide program that supports science education and science investigations. Urban Advantage connects schools, teachers, students, and families with the excitement of scientific discovery and the learning that takes place in eight renowned science-rich cultural institutions.

In addition to offering free admission for students and families, Urban Advantage prepares science teachers to use the resources of NYC's science-rich museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and the aquarium to do science investigations, and provides participating schools with equipment and supplies to help students continue their projects in the classroom and at home.

Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic

Urban Advantage and its partner institutions are committed to the health and safety of our participants. Our UA partners have been working with schools like yours to develop science-based remote learning opportunities for students and family members. Schools and families can enjoy experiences such as Plant Trivia or Weather Bingo which can bring fun and science content to your home with the help of a UA science instructor. Our UA partners also have many additional online resources including live animal cams at the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium and Staten Island Zoo. Check out the UA website <https://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org/ua-remote-learning/>, YouTube and social media to find live events, virtual visits and other digital tools to help with remote learning. In addition, UA Student+3 vouchers will be available in limited supply, for IN-PERSON visits! Check with your child's UA science teacher or your Parent Coordinator for more information and how to get your vouchers for in-person visits.

Using research and guidelines from local, state and federal agencies, our UA science institutions have created safety procedures and modified spaces so families can safely enjoy our locations using Student+3 vouchers. You can view current hours, as well as reservation info, for each location on pages 4-7 of this guide.



What places can we visit? Where are they? Located in all five boroughs, the eight Urban Advantage partner institutions are the American Museum of Natural History, the Bronx Zoo, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the New York Aquarium, the New York Botanical Garden, the New York Hall of Science, the Queens Botanical Garden, and the Staten Island Zoo. In this booklet, you can find hours, contact and admission details, and additional important information for each institution.

What kinds of things do our UA partners offer?

New York's world-class cultural institutions are great places to visit, enjoy, and do science!

For example:

- Explore the science of physics by climbing a giant 3-D Spider Web or racing down slides in the outdoor Science Playground at the New York Hall of Science.

- Take an "eco-tour" of the world in the New York Botanical Garden's Conservatory, or discover the ancient native forest on its 250 acres.

At the Staten Island Zoo, explore the realm of reptiles and amphibians in the Reptile Wing or stroll through the Tropical Forest to observe monkeys, bats and birds.

- Explore the barnyard and feed the animals yourself!

How does the new "green" Visitor & Administration Center at the Queens Botanical Garden use 40% less energy and 80% less water than a traditional building the same size? Visit QBG for that answer and so much more.

- Check out the American Museum of Natural History if your child likes rocks and planets or wants to see what's new in outer space.

- Enjoy Brooklyn Botanic Garden's special collections, from tiny bonsai trees to towering maples, or visit diverse habitats in the Steinhardt Conservatory.

- Visit the largest urban zoo in America and get up close to more than 600 species from around the globe at the Bronx Zoo. Meet exotic animals, birds, reptiles, insects and more.

Immerse your family in marine science and encounter colorful fishes, waddling penguins, weighty walruses, and much more at the New York Aquarium. Be sure to also check out the new Ocean Wonders: Sharks! Exhibit.

And that's just the beginning. Wherever you go, your family is sure to find festivals, programs and special events, and lots of cool things to watch and do.

Visit the UA website at www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the 'Plan Your Trip' section for information about special programs and events!

How many places can we visit?

Two (2) Student+3 Free Admission vouchers will be made available digitally to UA students for access to any of the participating museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquarium. Each voucher admits the student and **up to three guests**. One of the guests must be an adult. Your child's science teacher or parent coordinator will help you access those vouchers, and can support you with organizing a visit.

What is a School Community Trip?

Urban Advantage schools can organize a School Community Trip to one of the institutions on a weekend or a school holiday. Free transportation and free admission are provided. Please note that in-person School Community Trips will not be available during the 2020-2021 school year, **and will move to an online format**. Please ask your child's science teacher or parent coordinator for more information.

Can the institutions help my child with their science investigation?

Yes! Students can visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

How can I support science education for my child?

At Home:

- Encourage your children to observe, ask questions, and experiment to further their understandings of science.
- Provide frequent opportunities for science learning at home and in the community through outdoor play, and trips to parks, museums, zoos and aquarium, gardens, nature centers, and other science-rich sites in your community.
- Plan visits to UA institutions based on your child's interest, curiosity, or need to gather data or information for their Science Investigations.
- Take your child to the library for reading and science research. Books, newspapers and magazines, such as *National Wildlife* or *Natural History*, are good sources of information.

Become a partner in your child's education:

- Communicate regularly with your child and their teacher.
- Join your child in virtual meetings and activities.
- Attend online school town halls and family science nights. Check with your child's science teacher and Parent Coordinator about opportunities for remote engagement and enrichment.

How can Urban Advantage Help?

- Use the Student +3 Vouchers for FREE visits to any two of the UA institutions. If you have questions, speak to your child's science teacher.
- Ask your child's science teacher or the school parent coordinator about free virtual UA Trip courtesy of our partner museums, zoos, aquarium or gardens. Visit the UA website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org to learn more about long science investigations and to find about special events and exhibits at the eight Urban Advantage partner institutions. Individual science investigation help is available **by email**: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

Where do I find information about how to plan our Urban Advantage visits?

American Museum of Natural History

amnh.org

Phone: 212-769-5100

Hours: Wed to Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. See <https://www.amnh.org/plan-your-visit> for admission info.

Voucher information: Vouchers valid for general admission plus one special exhibit. Visit the AMNH website to view all available exhibits. Reserved ticket required.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website

www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.





Bronx Zoo

bronxzoo.com

Phone: 718-220-5100

Hours: Open daily from 10:00-5:00

Visit <https://tickets.wcs.org/affiliate?vid=5&vs=1> to reserve your timed tickets to the Bronx Zoo using your UA Voucher. You will need your Voucher number and school name to reserve tickets (ask your student's science teacher or Parent Coordinator for help). The Zoo is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Voucher information: Vouchers are valid for one UA student and up to 3 other persons, plus admission to one of the following paid exhibits: Jungle World (all year), Wild Asia Monorail (Mar-Oct), Butterfly Garden (Apr-Oct), or Congo Gorilla Forest (Apr-Dec). Parking is not included.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

bbg.org

Phone: 718-623-7200

Hours: March–October

Tuesday–Sunday 10am-6pm

Check <https://www.bbg.org/visit> for information on how to reserve your timed entry.

Voucher information: Please check www.bbg.org for information about our plant collections, seasonal highlights, and special programs and exhibits, including our Chile Pepper Festival in the fall and Sakura Matsuri, our Cherry Blossom Festival, in the spring.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.





Julia Larsen ©WCS

New York Aquarium
nyaquarium.com

Phone: 718-265-FISH (3474)

Hours: Open daily at 10:00 a.m. Closing times vary with the season.

Voucher Information: Visit <https://tickets.wcs.org/affiliate?vid=5&vs=1> to reserve your timed tickets to the NY Aquarium using your UA Voucher. You will need your voucher number and school name to reserve tickets (ask your student's science teacher or Parent Coordinator for help).

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

New York Botanical Garden

nybg.org

Phone: 718-817-8700

Hours: The Garden is open 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday, and Monday federal holidays (Mondays in which schools are closed such as Memorial Day, Columbus Day, etc.). Click here to see the [2021 Federal Holidays](#).

Voucher Information: You can visit the garden by redeeming your voucher at admissions/ticketing. No reservation required.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.





New York Hall of Science

nysci.org

Phone: 718-699-0005

Hours: Closed until further notice, check [https://nysci.org/](https://nysci.org) for updates.

Voucher information: NYSCI will share more information about special exhibits as it works to reopen. Visit their website for updates, or check in with your student's UA science teacher or Parent Coordinator.

Student Help:

Visit the UA Website

www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

Queens Botanical Garden

queensbotanical.org

Phone: 718-886-3800

Hours: For latest information visit https://queensbotanical.org/hours_admission/.

Voucher information: Vouchers are required for admission from April 1 – October 1 and should be presented at the Main Street or Parking Garden Entrance. Entrance to the garden is free from Nov 1 – March 30 but vouchers are valid for certain special events. NEW! Virtual and in-person experiences available with voucher.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website

www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.



Staten Island Zoo

statenlandzoo.org

Phone: 718-442-3101

Hours: Daily from 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Only outdoor spaces are currently open.

Voucher Information: Time tickets must be reserved here: <https://statenlandzoo.doubleknot.com/event/day/timed-ticketing/23842>. Enter the discount code UAS+3 at checkout to redeem your voucher. You will need to bring your voucher to the zoo on the day of your visit.

For information on what to expect when you visit, visit:

<http://www.statenlandzoo.org/what-to-expect/>

Student Help: Visit the UA Website

www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the Science Investigation heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

Urban Advantage Partners



The Council of the
City of New York

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