

urban  advantage

science initiative

family guide

2018-2019

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 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 to support science education and investigations. Urban Advantage connects schools, teachers, students, and families with the excitement of scientific discovery and 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 NYC's science-rich museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and aquarium to do science investigations, and provides participating schools with equipment and supplies to help students continue their projects in the classroom.



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 student help information for each institution.

Remember: You must bring a voucher in order to get free admission.



What kinds of things do these places 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 www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the 'Plan Your Trip' section for information about special programs and events!

How many places can we visit?

Urban Advantage students receive **two (2) Student+3 Free Admission vouchers** 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 can help plan your visits and answer questions about vouchers.

What is a School Community Trip?

Urban Advantage schools 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 ask your child's science teacher or parent coordinator about the School Community Field Trips!

Can the institutions help my child with their long-term science investigation?

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

Are there special Urban Advantage events? Yes!

We're looking forward to an exciting year, and especially to seeing your child's Long-Term Science Investigation at the **Urban Advantage Science Expo on Saturday, June 1, 2019** at the American Museum of Natural History. The Expo gives students the opportunity to display their work to family, friends, and the public. You'll receive a flyer about the Expo from your child's school in the spring.



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 Long-Term Science Investigation.
- 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.
- Volunteer on field trips.
- Attend school open house and family science nights. Check with your child to see how their long-term science investigation is going.

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 the free UA School Community Trip to zoos, museums, aquarium or gardens. **School Community trips include free admission and free bus transportation to a UA partner institution.**
- Visit the UA website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org to learn more about long term science investigations and to find about special events and exhibits at the eight Urban Advantage partner institutions. Individual long-term 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 Long-Term Science Investigation Help email form.

How do I find information about the institutions to plan our Urban Advantage visits?

American Museum of Natural History

amnh.org

Phone: 212-769-5100

Hours: Daily from 10:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m., closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Voucher information: Vouchers valid for general admission plus one special exhibit, IMAX Film, or Space Show. Voucher **does not** cover vehicle parking.

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





Bronx Zoo

bronxzoo.com

Phone: 718-220-5100

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

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 Long-Term Science Investigation Help email form.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

bbg.org

Phone: 718-623-7200

Hours: March–October

Tuesday–Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed Mondays (but open Memorial Day and Columbus Day, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Closed Labor Day

November

Tuesday–Friday: 8 AM–4:30 PM; Saturday and Sunday: 10 AM–4:30 PM

December–February: Tuesday–

Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Mondays (but **open** Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Presidents Day, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

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 Long-Term Science Investigation Help email form.





Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS

New York Botanical Garden

nybg.org

Phone: 718-817-8700

Hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Closing times vary with the season.

Closed Mondays (except for Monday federal holidays)
and on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Voucher Information: Parking requires an
additional fee.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website
www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the
“Do Science” heading for a link to the Long-Term
Science Investigation Help email form.

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: Parking requires an
additional fee.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website
www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the
“Do Science” heading for a link to the Long-Term
Science Investigation Help email form.





New York Hall of Science

nysci.org

Phone: 718-699-0005

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

We are open all holidays except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Labor Day.

Voucher information: The voucher admits student and up to three other family members to NYSCI and Design Lab.

Student Help:

Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the “Do Science” heading for a link to the Long-Term Science Investigation Help email form.

Queens Botanical Garden

queensbotanical.org

Phone: 718-886-3800

Hours: November 1 – March 30: Tuesday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

April 1 – October 30: Tuesday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Open to the public on Mondays that are national holidays.

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.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the “Do Science” heading for a link to the Long-Term Science Investigation Help email form.



Staten Island Zoo

statenilandzoo.org

Phone: 718-442-3101

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

Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

Voucher information: Use vouchers at either admission gate for up to four visitors. Parking lot on Clove Road is free.

Student Help: Visit the UA Website www.urbanadvantagenyc.org and click on the Long-Term Science Investigation heading for a link to Long Term Science Investigation Help email form.

Urban Advantage Partners



New York Hall of Science



The Council of the City of New York

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