



## family guide

**2021-2022**

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

[urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://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/](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, 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. 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](http://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](http://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 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](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) to learn more about science investigations and to find 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.







## Brooklyn Botanic Garden

[bb.org](http://bb.org)

**Phone:** 718-623-7200

**Hours:** March–October, Tuesday–Sunday, 10 am–6 pm;  
November–February, Tuesday–Sunday, 10 am – 4:30 pm

**Voucher information:** Vouchers admit a UA student + 3 other persons; children under 12 are free of charge. All visitors must reserve timed entry tickets: <https://www.bbg.org/visit>

Please check [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org) for information about our plant collections, seasonal highlights, and special programs and exhibits.

**Student Help:** Visit the UA Website [www.urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the “Do Science” heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

## Bronx Zoo

[bronxzoo.com](http://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](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the “Do Science” heading for a link to the Student Help email form.





Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS

## New York Botanical Garden

[nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

**Phone:** 718-817-8700

**Hours:** The Garden is open 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday, and Monday federal holidays

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

**Student Help:** Visit the UA Website [www.urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the “Do Science” heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

## New York Aquarium

[nyaquarium.com](http://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](http://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.com](http://nysci.com)

Phone: 718-699-0005

**Hours:** For latest information visit <https://nysci.org/visit#opening-hours> Friday & Sunday | 10am - 5pm (Last admission at 4 pm) Saturday | 10am - 6pm (Last admission at 5 pm)

**Voucher information:** Valid for general admission. Parking not included. To use this voucher, visit [nysci.org/tickets](http://nysci.org/tickets) in order to reserve your date and time of entry. You will need to provide your Voucher ID Number when reserving your tickets online. Once you have reserved online, you will receive your tickets in a separate email, which you will present on your mobile device at the admission area at your reserved date and time.

**Student Help:** Visit the UA Website [www.urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

## Queens Botanical Garden

[queensbotanical.org](http://queensbotanical.org)

Phone: 718-886-3800

**Hours:** For latest information visit [https://queensbotanical.org/hours\\_admission/](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. Please visit our events calendar at <https://queensbotanical.org/calendar/>

**Student Help:** Visit the UA Website [www.urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.



## Staten Island Zoo

[statenislандzoo.org](http://statenislандzoo.org)

Phone: 718-442-3100

**Hours:** Daily from 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Only outdoor spaces are currently open.

**Voucher information:** Valid for admission to all exhibits. To use your UA voucher, please visit <http://www.statenislандzoo.org/tickets/>. Click on the "Urban Advantage Admissions Tickets" button. Select the amount of guests you'd like to bring with you during your visit under the drop down option entitled "Urban Advantage Tickets Covered By Voucher (Max 4)". Additional guests, beyond the 4 covered by the voucher, will be charged the standard admissions rate. You will be asked to provide your Voucher ID, Teacher Name, and School Name before checkout. You must present your UA "Student + 3" voucher (either by paper or with a digital copy) at the admissions gate upon arrival. Free parking is available. UA "Student + 3" vouchers may also be used for live, interactive 15-minute "Virtual Animal Drop-In" with a Zoo educator and animal of your choice. Reservations are required at least 5 days in advance and are made at [www.statenislандzoo.org/virtual-zoo/](http://www.statenislандzoo.org/virtual-zoo/). If using your UA voucher for a Virtual Animal Drop-In, use the discount code "UAS+3" (case sensitive) at checkout to apply your redemption discount. You will be promoted to provide your voucher ID number.

**Student Help:** Visit the UA Website [www.urbanadvantagenyc.org](http://www.urbanadvantagenyc.org) and click on the "Do Science" heading for a link to the Student Help email form.

## Urban Advantage Partners



The Council of the  
City of New York

Public support for the Urban Advantage program is provided by the Speaker and Council of the City of New York, and the New York City Department of Education.