

Science Barge

Frequently Asked Questions



Science Barge Field Trip Information Sheet

We are excited to have you on board the Science Barge! **The Science Barge is a dynamic outdoor educational center** showcasing urban agriculture, clean energy production, and zero-waste systems. We have included in this hand-out as an overview of your time on the Barge, as well as a FAQ to make your visit the best it can be.

What to Expect on Your Visit

- ◆ Every program includes a safety briefing and sustainable design overview as well as a 60- minute tour of the Barge's hydroponics/aquaponics greenhouse production, renewable energy systems with energy-bike demo, and composting/recycling station (unless special arrangements are made).
- ◆ The **1-hour** visit will involve an interactive and intensive tour of the Barge's systems as described above. We split large groups up into 2-4 smaller units to make the experience more personal.
- ◆ The **90-minute** visit will include a 60-minute Barge tour as described above as well as a 30- minute activity of your choice. Please select an activity prior to your program date.
- ◆ The **2-hour** visit will include a 60-minute Barge tour, and ONE of the following:
 1. 60-minute onboard Activity **please select activity prior to your program date*
 2. 30-minute onboard Activity AND a 30-minute Lunch Education program ****lunches are NOT provided**
- ◆ The **3-hour** visit will include a 60-minute Barge tour, one 90-minute onboard activity, AND a 30-minute Lunch Education program.

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Are Science Barge visits rain or shine?

We are fully equipped for all types of weather on the Barge. Our outdoor pavilion ensures we can accept student groups regardless of rain, wind and other inclement weather conditions. For the safety of your group, Groundwork Hudson Valley reserves the right to call and cancel a program in the event of extreme weather, such as high winds or thundershowers. We make every attempt to give you advance notice the night before or in the early morning of the program so transport arrangements can be cancelled or adjusted. Cancellations for extreme weather made by Groundwork Hudson Valley can be rescheduled for a later date, if suitable. We cannot guarantee a reschedule date if your group decides to cancel after our 4 day required notice.

What should students wear?

As two-thirds of our activities take place outdoors on the Hudson River, please ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather.

Cold/Windy (Below 50°F): Students should have a jacket or coat, gloves, and a hat. **Cool (50-75° F):** A layered approach, including a jacket, is always best so students can remove outer layers as it may still be warm in the greenhouse.

Rain: In the event of rain, we adjust the program to take place under cover of our greenhouse and pavilion, but warm clothes and rain gear is still advisable. **Hot/Sunny (Over 75° F):** We recommend lightweight fabrics and light/bright colors, hats, visors, sunglasses, and sunscreen on hot sunny days, if possible.



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Are there bathrooms on the Barge?

We have a composting toilet but it is intended for emergency bathroom use ONLY, as it can only accommodate 15 flushes daily. There are public bathrooms in the Yonkers train station and the Yonkers public library, which are both within a block from the Barge. We recommend long distance groups arrive early in order to use these restrooms before coming on board. Groups staying for a 3- hour program will be given a 15-20 minute window to travel to the nearest public restroom before or after the Green Lunch Challenge.

Can we eat lunch on the Barge?

We only permit student groups who have paid in advance for the Green Lunch Challenge program to eat on the barge. However in the area there is space in the park outside and across the street in the Daylighting Park's outdoor classroom for students to picnic. Please be respectful of City sanitation workers and do not leave any trash behind. The Barge regularly has more than one tour booked in a day, and does not have a municipal trash pickup, so we cannot accommodate groups for unreserved lunches. *We do NOT provide lunch as part of any program.

How do I choose an Onboard Activity?

Really, you can't go wrong! Our educational brochure lists the various onboard activities as we recommend them by grade, based on Next Generation Science Standards. We can sometimes modify a program to make it age appropriate for a different grade than listed, upon request. For more information on these activities, download the Onboard Activity Descriptions pdf found on our website. If you have any questions, you can email the Science Barge, at sciencebarge@groundworkhv.org

Is the Barge wheelchair accessible?

The Barge is completely wheelchair accessible; we have a ramp for getting on and off our walkway and ramps throughout the Barge to ensure safe access.

Is the Science Barge safe?

The Science Barge has been lovingly maintained by Groundwork Hudson Valley for over 10 years! Additionally, our converted construction barge was expertly reinforced with new steel over the winters of 2018 & 2019 with generous funding by the NY Department of Conservation, ensuring safe educational programming for the next few decades. Our facility has been inspected and is fully insured. The Barge is very stable on the water – which is what they were built for, so rocking is minimal. Even so, we have rails around all public/group areas to prevent anyone from going overboard. Our crew is well-trained in safety procedures and we give safety rules/instructions to every visiting group before they board. We always have at least 2-3 educators onboard per program to ensure adequate supervision at all times. Though our education department serves only grades 1- 12, families with all ages of children are welcomed on the weekends for tours and public programs from April-November!

