



AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Reciprocal Admissions Program

Staff & Volunteer FAQs

The American Horticultural Society's (AHS) Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP) promotes horticulture across North America, encouraging people to visit gardens and other horticultural institutions. Launched in 1990, this program currently comprises a network of 320 horticultural institutions in 48 states, plus Canada, the Cayman Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Who receives benefits?

Any card carrying member of the listed participating gardens is entitled to receive benefits with the Reciprocal Admissions Program. This includes members of the American Horticultural Society. Gardens may have exceptions for special events or exhibits, or if the 90-mile exclusion is enforced.

How many people receive benefits?

Each member card will only admit the individual(s) listed on the card. In the case of a family, couple, or household membership card that does not list individual names, the garden must extend the benefit(s) to at least two of the members. It is at the garden's discretion to extend benefits to more than two individuals.

How can a garden's status be verified?

You can verify that a garden participates in the program by checking a current copy of the RAP Guide. Keep in mind that some gardens may join during the year and will not be included in the hard copy RAP Guide. The AHS website, www.ahsgardening.org/rap, is regularly updated to offer up-to-date information regarding garden status.

What is the 90-mile Exclusion?

The 90-mile Exclusion allows gardens to exclude members of other gardens within 90 miles of them from receiving their reciprocal benefit(s) unless the gardens mutually agree to lift the exclusion. For AHS members, the exclusion is based on their home address. Please use the RAP Guide or visit www.ahsgardening.org/rap to see if your garden enforces the 90-mile Exclusion.

How should RAP be promoted online and in print?

RAP is administered by the American Horticultural Society and should always be connected with the AHS. When referencing RAP on your own website and materials please remember to use the following language: "The American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program offers free admission and/or additional benefits at 320 gardens throughout North America."

How can I order printed RAP Guides?

RAP Guides are available for order through the AHS website at www.ahsgardening.org/rap. Discounts are available for bulk orders. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/RAPGuideHelp for ordering assistance.

Who can be contacted at a participating garden if questions arise?

Questions that can be answered on-site should be directed to the membership, development, or administrative departments. For the most part, AHS works with the membership department for RAP-related issues. Be sure to check with your garden first to answer any questions.

How can AHS be contacted for program related questions?

Program information is available at www.ahsgardening.org/rap. Email rap@ahsgardening.org or call 703-768-5700 ext. 121 with questions.

**Please keep a current copy of the RAP Guide with staff at the entrance to your garden.
Participating gardens can also be found at www.ahsgardening.org/rap**