

Cantigny Invites Visitors to “Join the Park!”

First-ever membership program offers benefits that go well beyond free parking

WHEATON, IL, April 25, 2012 — Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is appealing to its loyal fan base and occasional visitors alike with a new membership program. It is the first program of its kind since the park opened in 1958.

Visitors to Cantigny are now receiving a “Join the Park!” brochure which outlines the three levels of membership and the benefits of each. The levels are Member, Member Plus and Senior.

“We think this program will have a very wide appeal, especially among our most frequent visitors,” said Matt LaFond, Cantigny Park executive director. “Many of our guests have been asking for this.”

The new program offers unlimited free parking and much more, such as shop and restaurant discounts, invitation to a Members’ Night event and special prices on select ticketed events, such as summer symphony concerts. New members also get to choose a free “thank you gift” in the Cantigny Gift Shop.

Gardening enthusiasts will appreciate that Cantigny membership also entitles the member to reciprocal admission to nearly 300 arboreta and gardens in North America.

Basic membership is priced at \$60 per year or \$110 for two years. Member Plus membership is \$80/\$150. Senior membership, for ages 65 and older, costs \$50/\$90. Basic and Senior memberships share the same benefits.

“We designed this program with families in mind and made it a good value,” said LaFond. “The price of regular membership is the same as if you were buying a new season parking pass, but now you get a lot more than free parking.”

Cantigny, in fact, will no longer offer the season parking pass. People who already purchased a pass in 2012 will automatically be issued a Cantigny Park membership. Those who acquired a pass in 2011 may join as members this year at a special price.

LaFond noted that membership offers an easy way for loyal Cantigny visitors to contribute to a favorite place. Membership dollars will be used to preserve the park’s many attractions and support new and ongoing programs.

“Many of our guests are passionate about Cantigny. They like what we offer and want to support our mission. Now they have an opportunity to do so and enjoy some nice benefits as our way of saying thanks.”

Cantigny Park membership is available for purchase online at Cantigny.org or by phone at 630.668.5161. For mail orders, an application form may be downloaded from the website.

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About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton (Illinois) estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. It is home to 30 acres of spectacular gardens, the Robert R. McCormick Museum, the First Division Museum and a 27-hole championship golf course. All are open to the public. Cantigny also is a favorite destination for special events, weddings, concerts, lectures, workshops and other recreation and learning opportunities for all ages. Full-service banquet and dining facilities are on site. More information, including hours, directions and a calendar of upcoming events is online at Cantigny.org. For details about Cantigny Golf, including the Cantigny Golf Academy and 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links, please visit CantignyGolf.com.

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