

Gardens of Cornwall  
May 13-25, 2023

# Horticultural Society of Maryland & Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

## **2023 TOUR**

### **Gardens of Cornwall, Bath, and the Chelsea Flower Show**

**May 13-May 25, 2023**



**Day 1: Saturday 13th May**

Arrive London Heathrow early morning.

Depart for Bath for a visit to Highgrove the country home of the Charles & Camilla, HRH Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall (subject to availability).

Over 40 years in the making, the gardens at Highgrove are some of the most creatively inspiring and innovative in the United Kingdom. The series of interlinked gardens reflects The Prince's natural artistic ability. Managed organically and sustainably, the gardens have become an important haven for a rich variety of flora and fauna.

The gardens are open to visitors on selected dates between April and October each year.

If unavailable, a visit Bowood House (lunch included) will be arranged, a magnificent Georgian country house with interiors by Robert Adam set within 100 acres of beautifully landscaped 'Capability' Brown Parkland. Surrounding the house is the Italian-inspired Terrace Garden, the Private Walled Gardens, and the herbaceous border, all radiating colour throughout the seasons. Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath with the rest of the day at leisure.

Welcome dinner included at restaurant in Bath

O/N Bath (-/L/D)

**Day 2: Sunday 14th May**

Today we will visit some gardens close to Bath, with our first visit to Prior Park, a beautiful and intimate 18th-century landscape garden created by local entrepreneur Ralph Allen and designed by the poet Alexander Pope in collaboration with landscape gardener Capability Brown. Probably its most famous

feature is the Palladian Bridge, an elegant and eye-catching example of this style of architecture, built in 1755, and only one of three of its kind built in England.

Lunch will be included today.

In the afternoon continue to Courts Garden, a delightful English country garden, full of variety and displaying the English country style at its best.

Peaceful water gardens and herbaceous borders, with organically shaped topiary, demonstrate an imaginative use of colour and planting, creating unexpected vistas. Stroll through the arboretum with its wonderful species of trees and naturally planted spring bulbs.

Return to Bath with the evening free for independent dining in one of Bath's many fine restaurants.

O/N Bath (B/L/-)

**Day 3: Monday 15th May**

Depart Bath for Cornwall. En route stop in Wells for a visit to the Bishop's Palace, home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 years. The stunning medieval palace, along with its 14 acres of RHS partner gardens lies in the heart of the medieval city.

As well as viewing the Bishop's private Chapel and the now ruined Great Hall, there will be ample time to explore the garden. Wander along the many herbaceous borders, savour the scent of roses in the parterre, admire from the top of the ramparts the beautiful views of the gardens, moat and further afield, meander through the Arboretum, admire the reflection of Wells Cathedral in one of the well pools, explore what is growing in the Community Garden and, finally, take a moment to recharge

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your batteries in the contemporary Garden of Reflection.

Afterwards there will be time for independent lunch in Wells. Time permitting you may want to visit the magnificent medieval Cathedral.

Continue this afternoon for visit to Hestercombe near Taunton. Hestercombe Gardens offer a unique and varied experience encapsulating three distinct periods of garden design spanning three centuries: Georgian Landscape Garden (designed 1750s), the Victorian Shrubbery and the Edwardian Formal Gardens (early 1900s).

Afterwards continue journey to Cornwall and check-in to your hotel in St Ives for a 4-night stay.

Dinner in hotel tonight.

O/N St Ives (B/-/D)

#### **Day 4: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart hotel after breakfast and travel to St Austell on Cornwall's south coast. Our first visit today will be to the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

Abandoned after World War I, this garden was "lost" for decades until teams of volunteers literally unearthed it in the 1990's. Following the removal of tons of overgrowth, a garden with roots in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was revealed.

The garden is best described as a whole series of gardens within a garden – there are 5 walled gardens – each of their own particular interest. Included in the restoration is a 22-acre section of the garden that sweeps down a valley with a large collection of tree ferns and bamboo. There should be a good display of azaleas and rhododendrons on the grounds in early May as well.

Next continue to the Eden Project, a monumental garden under glass taking up an area the size of 30 football pitches. The garden was built in a derelict clay pit near the town of St Austell on the southern Cornish coast. Each of the gigantic conservatories represent a climate zone – Mediterranean, South African, Rainforest, Californian, etc. Many exotic rainforest plants grow alongside ornamentals. This is a relatively young garden (as far as English gardens go) and should be a very exciting and different kind of gardening experience.

Return to St Ives with evening free.

O/N St Ives (B/-/-)

#### **Day 5: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart the hotel this morning and travel to Truro and visit Tremenheere Sculpture Garden which lies in a beautiful, sheltered valley overlooking St Michael's Mount; the woods, stream and dramatic vistas provide the perfect setting for large-scale exotic and sub-tropical planting.

Interwoven with the planting is an evolving programme of contemporary artwork by internationally renowned artists such as James Turrell, David Nash and Richard Long, skilfully harmonising their works within this unique landscape.

Continue in the afternoon to another wonderful sub-tropical spring garden. Trewidden, created by Thomas Bolitho during the 19th century, is a beautiful garden of 15 acres which holds a vibrant range of over 300 Magnolias and Camellias that lie beside a large tree fern dell. A maze of paths will lead you to different areas of this tranquil Cornish Garden adorned with shrubs and champion trees, some of which are more than 100 years old. These attractions can be seen alongside rare species of plants, not normally cultivated in this country.

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Return to St Ives for some free time.

Dinner tonight in Harbourside restaurant in St Ives.

O/N **St Ives** (B/-/D)

### **Day 6: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Free day in St Ives to explore this charming town.

Suggested activities outside of St Ives include a short taxi drive to Penzance to tour art galleries and shops. Or take a ferry or helicopter from Penzance to the Scilly Islands for a day tour of more gardens. You could also tour the historic Minack theatre that juts out into the sea or visit an old tin mine that made Cornwall famous centuries ago. Mousehole is another option which is a picturesque fishing village on the coast.

A local bus company does an hourly tour of the coast at

<https://www.firstbus.co.uk/adventures-bus/services/lands-end-coaster>

O/N **St Ives** (B/-/-)



### **Day 7: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart St Ives this morning for Torquay.

En route we will visit a couple of well-known Cornish gardens. Trelissick, is both a garden and an estate of rare tranquil beauty, set amidst more than 500 acres of sweeping park and

farmland with glorious panoramic views towards Falmouth and the open sea. The garden is famed particularly for its large collection of hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendrons and exotic and tender plants, which thrive in the mild Cornish climate. There is a dell which has tree ferns, hostas, and hellebores as well as a walled garden with aromatic plants.

Continue this afternoon to Cotehele. This fourteen-acre property on the slopes overlooking the Tamar River was in the Edgcumbe family for over 600 years. The house is one of the least altered medieval houses in Britain. There are also remnants of the earlier centuries on view throughout the garden with a beehive-shaped dovecote and a Medieval stewpond. Nearest the house are the Terrace Gardens which on the east side of the house are probably the most formally planted. Here you'll find seasonally mixed borders of hydrangeas, roses, geraniums, spring tulips, magnolias, azaleas and a towering handkerchief tree in the northeast corner. Drop through a tunnel to the steeply sloped Valley Garden filled with exotic sub-tropical plants. At the base of the garden, a gate takes you to the tiny Chapel-in-the-Wood, built by Sir Richard Edgcumbe. Finally, you reach the Cotehele Quay offering maritime exhibits, a restored sailing barge, a fine art gallery, and refreshments at the Edgcumbe Arms. In the 19th century local industries boomed and Cotehele Quay bustled with vessels loading and unloading cargo. Paddle steamers came upriver to see the Tamar Valley's famous blossoming orchards and small boats carried market produce back down the river for sale.

Continue this afternoon for Torquay

Dinner tonight in hotel

O/N **Torquay** (B/-/D)

**Day 8: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart today for a full program of visits starting with The Garden House near Yelverton.

The Garden House is a true plantsperson's garden, this inspirational garden blends seamlessly into a timeless Devon landscape. The 8-acre garden is really several gardens in one, using over 6,000 varieties of plants to great effect in both traditional and naturalistic planting styles. A 2-acre arboretum with a lake and ornamental bridges is a recent addition celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Fortescue Garden Trust. There are magnificent collections of camellias, magnolias, and rhododendrons. We will experience the delights of the famous Walled Garden, considered by some to be the finest in Great Britain, built around medieval ruins. Other features include the Wisteria bridges, a romantic Cottage Garden, a Wild Flower Meadow, a South African garden, a Summer garden and Quarry rock garden, a thatched barn and a 16<sup>th</sup> century tower.

Continue afterwards to Buckfast Abbey, located in the heart of a picturesque valley on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, home to a community of Roman Catholic Benedictine Monks, who live their lives of prayer, work and study according to the ancient rule of St Benedict.

The Abbey complex includes beautiful, spacious gardens, a restaurant, multiple shops, a conference centre, a hotel plus a range of guest accommodation. There will be an opportunity for independent lunch in the Abbey restaurant.

Continue this afternoon for a scenic journey through the rugged Dartmoor National Park and stop for a luxurious afternoon tea at the five-star Bovey Castle hotel.

Return to Torquay later this afternoon.

O/N **Torquay** (B/T/-)

**Day 9: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Depart Torquay via visits to Knightshayes Garden. This is a large garden known for its wonderful woodland plantings and collection of trees.

The garden is one of the finest in Devon and its collection represents one of the most varied in the National Trust; with over 1200 plant species, many unique to Knightshayes. Covering an area of just over four acres, the walled kitchen garden is another great highlight, brimming with seasonal produce. The vistas of the terrace gardens contrast with the sheltered woodlands and the tranquil pools. The striking Gothic Victorian mansion is a rare example of the work of William Burges, whose richly decorated interiors have always inspired extremes in opinion. Full of quirks and curiosities, there are gargoyles, corbels and a medieval inspired great hall.

Next we visit East Lambrook, which may be the quintessential English Cottage Garden. Created by the doyen of cottage gardening Margery Fish. The garden mixes everyday English plants with rarer species to showcase Mrs Fish's garden style developed between 1938 and 1969. The garden was maintained by the Fish family for a while but finally passed out of their ownership in the 1980s.

Since then, the garden has been maintained by several different owners and is now under the stewardship of current owners Gail & Mike Werkmeister. Although now more mature, the garden is still essentially as Mrs Fish originally created it

Continue afterwards to the cathedral city of Salisbury and check in to your hotel.

Dinner at hotel,

O/N **Salisbury** (B/-/D)

**Day 10 : Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

We depart hotel this morning and head to naval town of Portsmouth for a visit to the Mary Rose Museum in the Royal Naval Dockyards. The **Mary Rose** was Henry VIII's favorite warship, built in 1510. In service for 34 years, it sank in 1545 during a confrontation between the respective fleets of the French and English in an area of water known as the Solent just off the English coast. Discovered in 1971, it was raised from the seabed in 1982 and is now in the final stages of conservation. She takes her place in a stunning and unique museum.

This afternoon visit the Sir Howard Hillier garden. In 1953 the distinguished plantsman, Sir Harold Hillier, established the Gardens and Arboretum. Over the many years he assembled a remarkable collection, in the aim to bring together the most comprehensive and unrivalled collection of trees, shrubs and hardy plants in the UK.

The Gardens were left under the sole trusteeship of Hampshire County Council in 1977. Run as a charity, the Gardens are continually developed to further Sir Harold's philosophy of horticulture, conservation, education and recreation.

Return to Salisbury with the remainder of the day and evening free.

O/N **Salisbury** (B/-/-)

**Day 11: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Depart Salisbury for London. En route visit a vineyard for winetasting and light lunch. With a climate and "terroir" not that dissimilar to that found in the Champagne region of France, southern English vineyards have developed a

growing reputation for producing high quality sparkling wines.

Continue for visit to Down House, Charles Darwin's family home and a site of outstanding international significance.

Step into the very rooms where Charles Darwin worked and lived, including the study where he wrote 'On the Origin of the Species', and discover a fascinating exhibition about his work. Follow in the great scientist's footsteps as you explore the award-winning gardens where he spent many hours making observations and conducting experiments that helped develop his ground-breaking theories. Meander down his 'thinking path', stroll past bountiful vegetable patches and enjoy fragrant flower beds all surrounded by the tranquil countryside.

Afterward we continue into London and check in to your centrally located hotel.

O/N **London** (B/L/-)

**Day 12: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Transfer provided to Chelsea Flower, Britain's premier horticultural show of the year and a Mecca for garden lovers from all over the world. Leave when you are ready and have the rest of the day free for independent sightseeing or shopping.

Return independently to hotel.

Farewell dinner in restaurant in walking distance to hotel.

O/N **London** (B/-/D)



**Day 13 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Transfer to airport

(B/-/-)

**Our Tour Guide: Patricia Blain**

Patricia Blain will be our tour guide/manager for this tour. I've worked with Patricia on a number of tours and she is engaging, interesting, and always excited to share her love and passion for all things UK. Based in Scotland, Patricia is a member of the Scottish Tourist Guide Association (STGA), training manager of STGA and International Trainer for the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations, and a member of the Federation of European Guides, Patricia has an intimate knowledge of the history and culture of the British Isles.

**Tour Planner, Administrator & Escort: Claire Jones**

A Director of Federated GC of MD, Claire Jones, has been planning garden trips to England, Wales, and Scotland, and is an avid garden traveler with a library of over 100,000 images of gardens around the world. A photographer, landscape designer, and garden blogger at [TheGardenDiaries](http://TheGardenDiaries), Claire loves to travel anywhere that there are gardens and interesting sights. Contact Claire at [jonesb1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesb1@comcast.net) or 443-927-6285.

**Tour Agent**

The Agent/Company for this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK. Claire Jones acts only as a representative for the tour participant to communications with the Agent.

**Main Tour Includes:**

- 12 nights lodgings- 4 star hotels
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners, 1 Afternoon tea
- Coach services (bus) for duration of tour
- Sightseeing entrances to Gardens and attractions as listed in the itinerary
- 1 wine tasting
- Chelsea flower show entrance
- Porterage of 1 piece luggage per person
- Local taxes on all included items

**Not Included:**

- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to drivers, tour guide
- Air Fare
- Meals not listed
- Travel Insurance (recommended)

Tour members may skip garden visits to do their own sightseeing, except during days when the group transfers to a new hotel.

**Special Requests:**

Tour members are requested to inform us at the time of booking of any special medical, dietary, or other requests. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, but cannot guarantee that such requests will be met.

**Baggage:**

Porterage of one piece of luggage per person is included in the tour. As space is often limited, we strongly suggest that you limit luggage to one suitcase and one 'carry on'.

**Price:**

The main tour is set at a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 participants. Prices are in English Pounds with U.S. Estimates (May 2022) based on conversion rate of 1 BP=\$1.23

**Double Room (sharing)**

**British Pounds (BP) per person 4450.00, US 5,474.00**

**Single Room BP 1120.00, US \$1378.00**

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Because the tour is priced in British Pounds but will be invoiced to you in dollars, the estimated US price may change depending on the currency exchange rate at the time the final payment is made to the agent (Pathfinders)

Tour deposits and payments, when required, may be made by Visa/Master Card. Credit card **payments are subject to a 3% processing fee.** Can also be paid through Transferwise-fees online or wire transfer. A \$50 contribution to both Federation Garden Clubs of MD and Horticultural Society of MD, both tax exempt charitable organization, is included in the price. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

**Deposit, Payments, and Invoicing:**

A \$200 good faith non-refundable deposit is required to hold your spot once your participation has been confirmed by email. The schedule for payment is included under tour conditions & other information following this page.

**Refunds & Cancellations:**

Regardless of the reason, cancellations negatively impact the planning of the tour. The long lead times required to schedule a tour,

including prepayments by our tour planner to hotels and other tour suppliers, mean that tour money may not be refundable. To offset any non-refundable payments and/or lost revenue, the following cancellation policy applies to this tour:

If the minimum number of participants for the tour has not been reached by the Agent's deadline and is subsequently canceled by the tour planner, the deposit is refunded in full.

If the tour is full and the space is subsequently filled from a waiting list, the deposit is refunded in full.

**Travel & Cancellation Insurance:**

As unforeseen situations do arise from time to time, participants are encouraged to consider purchasing travel or cancellation insurance. Information regarding third party companies providing this coverage is available on the internet. I suggest get CAFR (cover for any reason).

**Additional Information:** Please contact Claire Jones at [jonesb1@comcast.net](mailto:jonesb1@comcast.net) if you have any questions regarding this tour.

This is a non-smoking tour and no smoking is permitted on the coach, or group activities or meals. Each participant is required to fill out and sign the attached tour conditions within 30 days of acceptance.

**Hotels, Portugal 5 Star:**

- Francis Hotel, Bath
- Tregenna Castle Hotel, St Ives
- Grand Hotel, Torquay
- Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury
- K & K Hotel, London

**Tour Conditions & Other Information**

**Acceptance of your tour reservation:** Tour reservations are processed in the order received. You will be notified by your tour escort Claire Jones once your reservation has been accepted.

**Participants:**

The tours are designed for a minimum of 15 participants, If the tour does not fill to the minimum, there is a supplemental charge per person. If this situation occurs, registrants will be advised of the change in pricing and will have the opportunity to reconsider their tour application. Please do not book any non-refundable airfare until you have been notified by your tour escort.

Deposit: \$200 deposit to hold your spot, which is a good faith deposit which will be refunded once the tour commences. This payment is not applied to your final payment as it is refunded.

The agent/company for this tour is Pathfinder's/STITA tours of Cheltenham, UK.

Claire Jones acts only as representative for the tour participant with respect to communications with the agent.

Your deposit and final payment can be made by credit card (3% fee) or a wire transfer to Lloyds Bank (details will be given). Also, Transferwise, an online bank transfer company is another option that I use (fees may be less).

**Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit.** The success of any tour depends on each person's ability to participate and to cooperate with other tour members and with the tour escort. At times, this tour is moderately physically demanding, involving walking several miles over the day and getting in and out of a bus, traveling over cobblestones and moving luggage.

**Travel Protection Insurance is highly recommended and is not provided under this agreement. Cancel for any Reason (CAFR) travel insurance should be considered – it was of great benefit for those that had non-refundable airfare for trips cancelled due to travel restrictions in 2020.**

Cornwall Trip

**May 13-May 25, 2023**

**Co-Sponsored by Horticultural Society of MD & Federated Garden Clubs of MD**

**Travel Information Form**

<b>Personal Information</b>	
<b>Full Traveler name Must match passport</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Passport Issuing Authority</b>	
<b>Passport Number</b>	

<b>Passport Expiration Date</b>	
<b>Street address w/city, state, and zip</b>	
<b>Cell Number</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact Name &amp; Phone Number</b>	
<b>Type of Room Requested</b>	
<b>If TWIN, provide name of roommate</b>	
<b>How Did You Hear About This Tour?</b>	
<p><b>To Reserve a Space, a \$200 Deposit made out to Claire Jones is required which will be refunded to you at the start of the trip; If you cancel, the deposit will be retained, unless another participant is found to take your place. Mail deposit to Claire Jones, 4 Belclare Cir, Sparks, MD 21152</b></p> <p><b>Airfare is not included in the price of this tour. Each participant will need to make their own airline reservation to arrive in London in time to start the tour. If you want to arrive earlier and/or leave later, arrangements can be made with Pathfinders to stay extra nights. Please <i>Do Not</i> make your airline reservations until the Organizer has guaranteed (by email) that the tour will proceed.</b></p> <p><b>Important Dates: 10% Due by December 1, 2022 to Pathfinders (Caroline) at 877-753-6386- Toll free number, +5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time</b></p> <p><b>Final Payment Due by February 15, 2023 to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386</b></p>	

**Terms & Conditions**

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK (“Pathfinders”). The person organizing this tour is Claire Jones. She is not an agent or employee of Pathfinders; she acts only as your contact with Pathfinders. By placing your deposit for this tour, you agree that you have read and agree to these Terms and Conditions. You further agree that this is a release of any claim that you may have against Pathfinders, as well as Claire Jones, Claire Jones Landscapes LLC (collectively “Claire Jones”), and tour co-sponsor organizations (Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland), arising out of this tour.

By participating in this trip, participant acknowledges and provides consent that images from the trip may include those of participants and could be used for future trip promotion, shared on social media, shared by other tour participants, as well as other use.

Each tour is guaranteed to proceed as soon as the minimum of 15 reservations has been met. In the event that our reservation minimum is not met by November 1, 2022, the Organizer reserves the right to cancel the tour. Deposits/payments will be refunded in full if the tour is canceled.

**Price:** Published tour prices are based upon current exchange rates, tariffs and taxes. Fluctuations in these rates could result in a price adjustment without prior notice until the tour is paid in full. Once the price for the tour is paid in full, the fee will not be adjusted due to any later change in exchange rates, tariffs or taxes.

**Changes in itinerary details:** The Organizer and Pathfinders strive to operate according to our published itinerary. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, or opportunities that would enhance the itinerary, adjustments may be necessary or appropriate. The Organizer and Pathfinders reserve the right, without penalty, to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of participants. The Organizer will let you know about any important changes when you make your reservation. If you have already made your reservation, the Organizer will let you know as soon as we can if there is time before your departure.

All tours, trip and arrangements made by Sponsoring organizations and individuals are for the convenience and pleasure of those who elect to participate. Sponsoring organizations and individuals organizing the tours, trips, and arrangements do not assume responsibility for the well-being or safety of the participant(s), tour arrangements, or property in any matters pertaining to the Portugal Spring Tour.

**Travel Protection Insurance is highly recommended and is not provided under this agreement. Cancel for any Reason (CAFR) travel insurance should be considered – it was of great benefit for those that had non-refundable airfare for trips cancelled due to travel restrictions in 2020. Medical Insurance coverage is also recommended; health insurance does not always extend to non-U.S. travel.**

**MEDICAL ISSUES:** Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit, and able to participate and cooperate with other tour members and the tour escort. At times, this tour is moderately physically demanding, involving walking several miles over the day, getting in and out of a bus, traveling over cobblestones, and moving luggage. You acknowledge that you are fit to participate in this tour, and you do so at your own risk.

Participants in the tour are solely responsible for compliance with requisite inoculations, passports, paperwork, all other compliance issues with respect to all countries, states, regions, other, that are included in the tour. Participants are required to certify they have had Covid-19 vaccine(s) administered to them, with requisite lead time prior to trip departure as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Countries and locations outside the U.S. may have specific Covid and/or other health and/or health insurance requirements, subject to changes both prior to and during the trip.

### **RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS**

I agree to the Terms and Conditions set forth above. I assume all of the risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may incur in connection with this tour. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Pathfinders, its employees, officers, and agents, Claire Jones and Claire Jones Landscapes LLC, as well as tour co-sponsors Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, from any injury, damages or loss due to my participation in and travel to and from this tour.

Participant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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May 13-25, 2023