

School Programs – Whiteshell Provincial Park

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are programs offered in Whiteshell Provincial Park?

Programs are offered in four locations:

- Whiteshell Natural History Museum: Year-round administration number: 369-3157
- Bannock Point Petroforms: May 15 to September Long Weekend: 348-2806
- Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary: Year-round administration number: 369-3157
- Falcon Lake Fish Hatchery: May 15 to September Long Weekend: 349-8204

As well onsite programs may be presented at any campground or hiking trail. Please contact Morgan Hallett, Senior Park Interpreter (369-3157) for information on programs appropriate to your location.

Is there a charge for programs?

All interpretive programs and visitor centres are free of charge. Please be aware that you must pre-book to ensure space.

What about park entry fees?

For the 2010/ 2011 seasons all park entry is free to Manitoba's Provincial Parks.

The Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary is located outside of the park entrance and vehicles do not require a permit to visit this location. For all other locations, school groups from daycare to grade 12 inclusive qualify for complimentary vehicle up to and including the last Thursday of June. Exceptions may be made for school groups that operate during the summer season. Requests must occur on group letterhead and if the request is related to a camping reservation, the reservation number should be referenced in the text of the letter.

Requests can be sent to:

Support Services
Parks and Natural Areas Branch
200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg MB R3J 3W3

What information do I need to book a school program?

- Date you wish to book (please have a back-up date ready in case your first choice is not available, for large groups a rain date may also be booked).
- School Name
- Contact Person
- School Phone Number
- School Fax Number
- School Mailing Address
- Contact Person Email
- Grade of Students
- # of Students
- # of Supervisors (please see supervision requirements below)

- Program Choices (the interpreter can help you if you are unsure which will best meet your groups needs)
- Arrival Time
- Departure Time
- Any special needs or allergies
- Any special requests

What do you offer?

- Whiteshell Natural History Museum offers a scavenger hunt tour of the log museum. This includes an introduction to Whiteshell Provincial Park including its flora and fauna. A great place to stop on your way through the park, or use the grounds to have a picnic lunch. This tour is 1 hour in duration (including the introduction and conclusion). Interpreters also take classes on a guided walk of the Pine Point Rapids trail. This is a full day (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) excursion suitable for older students. Programs are available May 1 to September 30. Please contact the year-round administration number 204-369-3157 for details and bookings.
- Bannock Point Petroforms offers tours of this unique cultural site from May 15 to September Long Weekend. Tours last 1.5 hours in length and are suitable for older students. Please contact the Petroforms Park Interpreter at 204-348-2806.
- Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary offers a wide variety of programs for all grades including one-hour programs, visitor centre tours, games, and guided hikes. Field trips can be stop-in programs, half day or full day adventures. Programs are available year-round and can be booked at 204-369-3157.
- Falcon Lake Fish Hatchery can be booked from May 15 to September Long Weekend. This site helps to sustain Manitoba's fishery and includes a look at live specimens. Tours are 1 hour in length and can be adapted to all age groups. Please contact the interpreters at 349-8204.

How many students can I bring?

- Whiteshell Natural History Museum: 1 class
- Bannock Point Petroforms: 1 class
- Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary: 3 classes
- Falcon Lake Fish Hatchery: 2 classes

A class is approximately 30 students.

Groups that wish to book more than the above number of students may be able to have the classes rotate through the programs.

How many adults do we need to bring for a group?

Groups are responsible to provide adequate supervision. Please use the following guidelines when arranging your program.

- Pre-school and Kindergarten – 1 adult per 4 students
- Grades 1 - 3 – 1 adult per 5 students
- Grades 4 - 6 - 1 adult per 8 students
- Grade 7 to 12 – 1 adult per 10 students

What if I want to camp with my students?

5 group use areas are available for camping with your students. These can be reserved through the park reservation service. Park Interpreters can also provide on site programs for your group.

General Recommended Equipment

- First aid kit
- Park map for the school bus driver to follow (one can be provided with your confirmation letter)
- A day pack is recommended for carrying lunch, equipment and extra clothing
- Water bottle or canteen
- Note book and pencil
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Camera, binoculars & compass
- Field guides (plants, mammals, birds, tracks)
- A plastic bag for packing your group's garbage

Clothing - Summer

- Sturdy footwear (good quality walking shoes, waterproof if possible)
- Wind & Waterproof jacket and hat
- Warm sweatshirt & long pants for hiking on trails
- Shorts and T-shirt (warm weather is permitting)
- Encourage your students not to wear sandals or shoes with heels, as these are not appropriate for walking on the trails or participating in outdoor activities
- You may also want to encourage everyone to bring rain gear if the forecast is calling for rain showers. Rain jackets, rain pants and rain boots will be needed for outdoor activities in the case of rain. Please come prepared.

Clothing - Winter

- Winter boots (knee-high with warm liners)
- Ski pants and winter jacket
- Toque, scarf, mitts, etc.
- Warm clothing (dress in layers of loose clothing to stay warm – *wool socks are best*)
- Encourage your class not to wear jeans, as they do not dry when they get wet.
- You may also want to encourage everyone to bring an extra pair of socks to change into half way through the day. Damp or wet socks are one of the fastest ways to get chilled, and can take you a long time to warm up – plus, wet feet are never comfortable.

Special Note:

The majority of our programs are held outside. Please make sure everyone, children and adults, are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities for up to three hours – regardless of heat, wind or rain. Any person not dressed appropriately for the outdoor activities being presented (including appropriate footwear) will be asked to remain in the centre with an adult for their own safety.

It is important to prepare the students with the information provided in this package prior to the Park field trip. The students should also be included in the pre-trip planning. This creates enthusiasm and readiness for the trip.

Please work out a set of rules with the students concerning conduct during the field trip (respecting the Park and its creatures, no littering, please pay attention to the Interpreter, etc.). Remember, as the teacher you will be responsible for the conduct and discipline of your group. The teacher must accompany their students at all times while visiting the Park.

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