



Group Visits to the Beach

Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach

If your group is planning a beach trip to provincial parks this summer, Manitoba encourages supervisors to promote the safety of all group members by following beach safety tips at [manitoba.ca/beachsafety](https://www.gov.mb.ca/beachsafety).

If your group is visiting Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach between June and September long weekend, group leaders are encouraged to arrange a beach safety orientation, especially if the group includes children or those with limited swim skills. Please include the following steps in trip planning:

1. The group supervisor reviews water safety tips in the *Beach Safety for Groups* brochure and arranges for supervision and equipment requirements.
 - *Beach Safety for Groups* brochure:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/parks-protected-spaces/beaches/b_safety_gr_nomarks.pdf
 - To employ a lifeguard to supervise your group, contact the Lifesaving Society for further information.
2. The group supervisor contacts Manitoba Parks about the upcoming beach visit. The following information is requested: organization name, group leader, contact information, location of visit, date and time of visit, number in group, number of supervisors.

Contact:

- Birds Hill District Office 204-654-6730
 - Grand Beach District Office 204-754-5040
 - Winnipeg Beach District Office 204-389-2752

 - Environment and Climate Change Inquiry:
Email ecc@gov.mb.ca or call 204-945-6784 or 1-800-214-6497
3. A Beach Safety Officer will contact the group leader to provide safety tips and arrange a time for a beach safety orientation. The Beach Safety Officer will meet with the group upon their arrival to the park.

If prior arrangements have not been set, options to connect with a Beach Safety Officer include:

- Stop at the park gate and request the gate attendant to ask a Beach Safety Officer to meet your group at the beach parking lot.
 - Should your group arrive before 10:00 a.m., the group leader can contact a Beach Safety Officer once they begin operations for the day.
4. Beach Safety Program operating dates and hours are posted at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/parks/provincial-park-beaches/index.html>
 5. Please keep the following important safety tips in mind when visiting the beach with your group:
 - Keep children within arms reach of a supervisor at all times while in, near, or around water.
 - Assign a specific group of children to each supervisor.
 - Use the “buddy system”.
 - Conduct regular head counts to ensure all children are present.

For further information, please contact the Beach Safety Coordinator at jenny.davin@gov.mb.ca or at 204-250-1934.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!