



## FREE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Interpretive Programming in  
Manitoba Provincial Parks

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Which Provincial Parks offer school programs and how do I book?

Three parks offer year-round school programs and can be booked directly with the park interpreter:

- Birds Hill Provincial Park: 204-654-6739
- Spruce Woods Provincial Park: 204-827-8850
- Whiteshell Provincial Park: 204-369-3157

Three parks offer spring (June) programs. For your convenience, these programs can be booked at any time throughout the year by contacting Parks & Natural Areas at 204-945-4375.

- Grand Beach Provincial Park
- Hecla/ Grindstone Provincial Park
- St. Norbert Provincial Park

#### 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.

#### Do you offer French programs?

St. Norbert offers French school programs.

#### How long are programs?

Programs can be one-hour, a half-day or a full day depending on your needs.

#### What about park entry fees?

School/Youth groups booking interpretive programs are eligible for free park entry. To receive complimentary park vehicle permits, send a request on official school letterhead to;

Head of Interpretation  
Parks and Natural Areas  
Box 52, 200 Saulteaux Crescent  
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3

Your letter must state the number of passes needed and dates required, which park you are visiting, and the number of students and number of adult supervisors.



# Interpretive School Programming Frequently Asked Questions

## 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 (please contact the numbers above for a list of programs at each location)
- Arrival & Departure Time
- Any special needs or allergies
- Any special requests

## How many students can I bring to each location?

- Birds Hill Provincial Park                      June: 2 classes  
   September to May: 1 Class
- Spruce Woods Provincial Park                      May & June: 1 Class  
   September to April: 1 Class
- Whiteshell Provincial Park                      May & June: 3 Classes  
   September to April 1 Class
- Grand Beach Provincial Park                      1 Class
- Hecla/ Grindstone Provincial Park                      1 Class
- St. Norbert Provincial Park                      1 Class

A class is approximately 30 students. The above is a guideline only; these numbers may change depending on programs booked. Groups that wish to book more than the above number of students may be able to have the classes rotate through the programs with teacher's providing an alternate activity.

## 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. Some programs may require additional supervisors.

- 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



# Interpretive School Programming

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I want to camp with my students?

Group camping is also available through the Parks Reservation Service for the following locations: Birds Hill, Hecla, Spruce Woods and Whiteshell. Interpreters may be available to provide programming directly at your site to enhance your camping excursion.

### General Recommended Equipment for School Programs

- First aid kit
- Safety 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.



# Interpretive School Programming Frequently Asked Questions

## 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) may be asked to remain behind with an adult for their own safety.

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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

## For more information:

To find out more information, contact Sloan Cathcart, Acting Head of Interpretation, Parks and Natural Areas at 204-945-4375 or connect by email [Sloan.Cathcart@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Sloan.Cathcart@gov.mb.ca).