



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.manitoba.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/parks/pdf/brochures/b_safety_gr_nomarks.pdf
 - To employ a lifeguard to supervise your group, contact the Lifesaving Society or Red Cross 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

 - Manitoba Sustainable Development Inquiry:
Email sd@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. 2019 Beach Safety Program operating dates and hours are:

Birds Hill

June 6 – 25	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
June 26 - Aug 25	10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Aug 26 - Sept 2	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach

June 6 - Sept. 2	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
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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 204-945-3839.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer!