

Blackstrap Provincial Park

2022 Education Programs

Guided school programs are offered in the spring and fall at Blackstrap Provincial Park and are a great opportunity to immerse students in nature while investigating and applying learning objectives. Sask Parks' guided school programming connects the Saskatchewan Curriculum to nature-based learning.



Booking:

Bookings are accepted starting on Tuesday, January 4, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete the attached form and return by email to outdoorclassroom@gov.sk.ca.

Cost:

School groups are no longer required to pay a program fee. A vehicle entry permit is required upon entry to the park for \$10/vehicle (buses and chaperone vehicles included). Permits are available for purchase from the entry gate and/or park office.

Program Dates:

Mondays only, May 16 to June 20, 2022.
Fall programs are available September 6 to early October, weather and park conditions permitting. Winter programs are available upon request.

Park Quick Facts:

- Located 35 minutes southeast of Saskatoon near Dundurn.
- Situated within an ancient glacial valley.
- An identified Important Bird Area (IBA) with over 200 species of birds.
- Home to a man-made mountain.
- Picnic sites available for free day use.

In the Area:

- Concession with food and snacks available for purchase.

Programs

Most programs can be adapted for any grade level, however, suggested grades are included.

Aquatic Programs

Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration (Grade K-12)

This investigative program takes place on the main beach where students will explore aquatic habitats through a pond dipping study. Using dipping nets, students will attempt to collect living invertebrate near the shoreline of the lake. Living organisms will be placed in an aquarium where they can be inspected and identified using biological keys.

The content and detail of this program is tailored to fit the grade level. Students that are at a grade 7 level or higher will be given the tools they need to discover the impacts of fertilizer and chemical use in Saskatchewan. Groups will test the pH, turbidity and amount of dissolved oxygen, phosphate and nitrate in

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a lake sample. Students will use the results of their qualitative and quantitative assessments to determine the health of the lake and discuss the importance of a healthy ecosystem.

Location: Main Beach

Duration: 1 hour

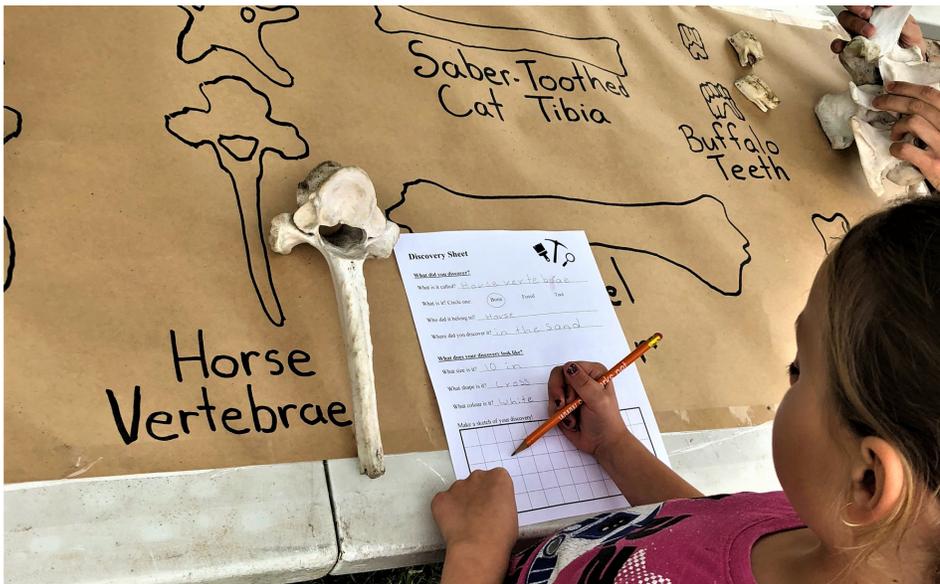
Suggested Curriculum: LTK, LT1, AN2, AW2, RW5, DL6, IE7

Guided Hikes

Natural Neighbors (Grade K-3)

During this short hike full of games and activities, students will learn how animals use their five senses to adapt to the environment around them. Students will learn about the habitat requirements of animals in Blackstrap





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Provincial Park, including their food, water and shelter needs. Students will learn about their role in habitat protection.

Location: Trailhead Parking Lot

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, SE1, AN2.1, AW2, PL3

Uncover the Coulee (Grade 3-12)

A Park Interpreter will lead students on the Lower and Upper Coulee trails, approximately 2.5 km in length. Students will explore changes in ecosystems as they move from the valley floor, through aspen woodland and into mixed grass prairie, discovering the different flora and fauna that call each ecosystem home. Located in an ancient glacial valley, students will also discover the long-lasting impacts of glaciation on the natural landscape and uncover how the Blackstrap Coulee was formed.

Location: Trailhead Parking Lot

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: PL3, HC4, RM4, PL6, IE7, EC7, USC8, W3

Skill Development Programs

Orienteering 101 (Grade 4-12)

A challenging outdoor activity designed to enhance observation skills and awareness of direction in the forest environment. Students will learn the basics of compassing, including travelling on a bearing and how to navigate using cardinal directions. Appropriate footwear for hiking is required.

Location: Main Beach

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, W3, PE20, PE30

Geocaching Adventure (Grade 5-12)

This program engages students with the worldwide treasure hunt activity called geocaching! Students will be given hands-on experience using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and then be invited to enhance their team building skills by participating in a geocaching adventure throughout Blackstrap Provincial Park.

Location: Main Beach

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE20, PE30

Booking Information

Educational Programming:

Please fill out the attached School Booking Request Form and email the completed form to outdoorclassroom@gov.sk.ca.

Group Size:

Each program can accommodate 20-30 students. For larger group sizes, contact us at outdoorclassroom@gov.sk.ca to discuss program options.



Know Before You Go

Note: teachers and chaperones are required to participate in all programs.

Be Prepared for the Weather:

Bring sunscreen, insect repellent and warm and waterproof clothing. Rubber boots may also be required for your program.

Cell Coverage:

There is good cell service at Blackstrap Provincial Park, though it may be limited in some areas. Wi-Fi is not available.

Late Arrivals or Cancellations:

Programs are not usually cancelled due to weather unless requested by the school or in extreme/unsafe situations. Please phone us to let us know if you are late arriving. We will try to accommodate changes, however, late arrivals may result in program reduction or cancellation due to other school booking commitments.

Campfires:

Campfires are allowed in the park. Please bring matches, roasting sticks and an axe. Wood is provided on site. Please discuss campfire needs during your booking. In the case of a fire ban, campfires are prohibited. To find out if the park is under a fire restriction, head to saskparks.com.

Drinking Water:

Drinking water may not be available at your program location. Plan ahead and bring filled water bottles.

Safety:

In case of medical or other emergencies, all groups must maintain their own transportation while visiting the park.

In the Classroom:

Discuss with your students ways that they can reduce their impact—reduce packaging on food items, recycle materials and respect the natural environment during your visit.

Further Information:

Learn more about Blackstrap Provincial Park at www.saskparks.com.



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Education Program Booking Form

You will receive a response within 10 business days to confirm your booking. Park Interpreters begin work in May and will contact you to finalize details.

School Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

School Phone: _____

Name (contact person/teacher): _____

Name(s) of teacher(s) attending trip (if different than above): _____

Cell phone number of teacher(s) attending trip: _____

Grade(s): _____ # of students: _____ # of chaperones: _____

Preferred Program Date:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Planned Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____

Select desired program(s):

Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration (Grade K-12)

Natural Neighbors (Grade K-3)

Uncover the Coulee (Grade 3-12)

Orienteering 101 (Grade 4-12)

Geocaching Adventure (Grade 5-12)

Please choose preferred time(s):

10:30am-11:30am

11:30am-12:30pm

1:00pm-2:00pm

Please list any other curriculum-based themes or inquiry-based learning questions that would help interpretive staff tailor the program to your group.

Are there any special considerations that your interpreter should be aware of (i.e. mobility issues, special needs, allergies, medications, etc.)?

Yes No

In most cases, programs can be adapted to better suit your group. Please discuss any special needs with a Park Interpreter ahead of time.

Please return completed form to: outdoorclassroom@gov.sk.ca.

Submit