

Duck Mountain Provincial Park

2022 Education Programs

Guided school programs are offered in the spring and fall at Duck Mountain 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:

Monday to Friday, May 16 to June 24, 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 100 km northeast of Yorkton or 22 km east of Kamsack.
- Rare calcareous fen ecosystem home to unique carnivorous plants. Approximately 600 meters of wheelchair accessible boardwalk runs through the trail.
- Large picnic area with covered picnic shelter and barbecues available for use.

In the Area:

- Waves Ice Cream & Mini Golf
- Madge Lake Bible Camp
- Horseback riding at Madge Lake Stables

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 at Ministik 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

Details Cont'd

of dissolved oxygen, phosphate and nitrate in 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: Meet at Visitor Centre

Duration: 1 hour

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

Guided Hikes

Boreal Basics Hike (Grade K-7)

The forests of Duck Mountain Provincial Park are a southern representation of the vast boreal forest that stretches across three-quarters of Canada.



Details Cont'd

With a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees, the boreal forest takes on its own unique character in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. On this hike, students will learn about this unique forest and explore the flora and fauna along the trail.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: LTK, SE1, PL3, HC4, HC4, DL6, IE7

Explore the Calcareous Fen (Grade K-7)

Wander along 600 meters of accessible boardwalk through the unique calcareous fen ecosystem. Learn about the various carnivorous plants, unique flora and rare wildlife that inhabit this area. The trail is on the south end of the park and therefore transportation is required to get there.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: LTK, LT1, SE1, PL3, HC4, DL6, IE7

Grassland Ghosts Hike (Grade K-7)

While predominantly forested, Duck Mountain Provincial Park harbors isolated pockets of native grassland. In Little Boggy Creek Valley, prairie remnants are covered in flowers and grasses that are becoming increasingly rare outside of protected areas. The hot, dry conditions on the south-facing slopes of the valley discourage the growth of trees, allowing the prairie community to thrive. Controlled burning of this area keeps the aspen forests at bay and preserves an ecosystem that once dominated Saskatchewan. This hike is a good extension

Details Cont'd

of the Calcareous Fen hike due to its proximity.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 30 minutes

Suggested Curriculum: LTK, LT1, SE1, PL3, HC4, DL6, IE7

Biodiversity at its Best Hike (Grade 4-7)

Hike through the southern part of the park's boreal forest, located on the western edge of the Duck Mountain Uplands. The richness of plant and animal life on the Great Trail can only be appreciated by a visit to the park. Over 180 species of birds and 35 species of mammals can be seen on this route. Such a wealth of life is possible due to the variety of settings and ecosystems found within the park. In addition to old growth aspen forests, there are forests of white spruce and balsam fir, black spruce bogs, paper birch stands, and lake shorelines that extend for miles.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: LTK, LT1, SE1, PL3, HC4, DL6, IE7

Skill Development Programs

Fire Starting (Grade 5-7)

The objective of this program is to understand the importance of fire and how to safely build and handle fire. Connections to the importance of wildfires and controlled burns to forest ecology are discussed.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: MC5, USC6, DL6, HT7



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 Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Please wear running shoes or hiking boots.

Location: Confirm upon booking

Duration: 1 hour

Suggested Curriculum: MC5, USC6, DL6, DR6, HT7, IE7, 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.

Group Camping:

Group camping is available to school groups free of charge from September 7, 2021 to June 23, 2022. To book group campsites, please contact the park office at 306-792-4750. When reserving online, standard nightly group camping fees apply from June 24, 2022 until September 6, 2022, in addition to a \$12 non-refundable reservation fee. Visit saskparks.com for standard nightly group rates. Valid vehicle entry permits are required.



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 Duck Mountain 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 Duck Mountain Provincial Park at www.saskparks.com.



Duck Mountain Provincial Park

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. If desired, group camping must be booked separately by contacting the park office at 306-542-5500.

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: _____

Is your group staying the night? Yes No

**If yes, be sure to book a group campsite by contacting the park office at 306-542-5500.*

Preferred Program Date:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Planned Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____

Select desired program(s):

Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration (Grade K-7)

Boreal Basics Hike (Grade K-7)

Explore the Calcareous Fen (Grade K-7)

Grassland Ghosts Hike (Grade 4-7)

Biodiversity at its Best Hike (Grade 4-7)

Fire Starting (Grade 5-7)

Geocaching Adventure (Grade 5-12)

Please choose preferred time(s):

9:30 am - 10:30 am

11 am - 12 pm

1 pm - 2 pm

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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