Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
2023 Education Programs

Guided school programs are offered in the spring at Cypress Hills interprovincial 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 Information

Bookings are accepted between Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and Tuesday, May 23, 2023, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete the attached form and return by email to outdoorclassroom@gov.sk.ca with the park name in the subject line.

Program Dates:

Programs can be scheduled Tuesday to Friday from May 23 to June 23, 2023.

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.

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

Details Cont'd

free of charge from September 6, 2022 to June 23, 2023. To book group campsites, please contact the park office at 306-662-5411. Standard nightly group camping fees apply from June 24, 2023 until September 1, 2023 in addition to a $12 non-refundable reservation fee. Visit saskparks.com for standard nightly group rates. Valid vehicle entry permits are required.

Programs

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

Astronomy Guided Programs

Sky-Trek Astronomy – Evening Program (Grade 4-11)

The Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve offers students a look deep into the amazing night sky from the classroom at the Observatory. Using telescopes, binoculars, constellation tours and stories, students learn the wonders of the night sky and the importance of darkness to the natural world. Dress warm, including warm jacket, hats, and gloves and bring a blanket (no shorts or sandals).

Details cont'd

Location: Observatory
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: LI4, SS6, OP8, EU9.

Aquatic Programs

Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration (Grade K-12)

A series of discovery activities which helps young students learn about the plants and animals that live on, under and around the surface of the pond. Students will not be

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Details cont'd
entering the water but working from the shoreline near shallow water of 0"– 6". Recommend wearing rubber boots.

The content 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. Students will use the results of their qualitative and quantitative assessments to determine the health of the lake.
Location: South end of Loch Leven
Duration: 1 hour
Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, SE1, DS1, AN2, AW2, PL3, ES3, HC4, RW5, DL6, IE7, WS8, SCI10, ES20

Canoe Skill Instruction (Grade 6 – 12)

Certified instructors lead students through a series of paddling and safety skills designed to enhance their ability to handle a canoe on calm water. Canoe rental fee $8/person, paid to the Marina. Maximum 20 students/chaperones in each session.
Location: Marina
Duration: 1.5 hours
Curriculum: PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE10, PE20, PE30.

Cultural Programs

Bison Habitat (Grade K – 4)

An introduction to the most important mammal for Indigenous people of the Plains. Students will identify and understand the essential components of bison habitat as well as uses of bison for food, tools, shelter, clothing and spiritual purposes.

Details cont'd
Grade 5 and up will take a walk through the cultural past of the Cypress Hills to understand the importance of the hills to the indigenous and non- indigenous people from earlier times.
Location near Visitor Centre
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: DRK, PEK, LT1, DR1, RW1, PE1, AN2, DR2, IN3, DR3, IN4, DR4, RW4, IN5, DR5, PA5, IN6, DR6, RW7, DR8, DR9, Native Studies 10, 20, 30.

Guided Hikes

Spring in the Hills (Grade K – 11)

Explore the contrasting ecosystems of the Cypress Hills and the spring activities of the wildlife that inhabit the area.
Location: Highland Trail
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, SE1, DS1, AN2, AW2, PL3, ES3, PE3, HC4, RW5, DL6, IE7, ES20.

Whispering Pines Nature Walk (Grade 7 – 12)

Discover the unique ecology of the lodgepole pine forest and the important role it plays on the prairies. Learn about forest and fire management techniques used in the Cypress Hills.
Location: Highland Trail
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, SE1, DS1, AN2, AW2, PL3, ES3, PE3, HC4, RW5, DL6, IE7, ES20.

Guided Programs

Forest Study (Grade K – 6)

Students will enjoy this hands-on discovery

Details cont'd
program that involves learning about plant and animal diversity and the ecology of the unique coniferous forests of the Cypress Hills.
Location: near Visitor Centre.
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, OM1, SE1, DS1, AW2, PL3, ES3, HC4, RW5, DL6.

Geology of the Cypress Hills (Grade 4 – 12)

Students unlock the mysteries behind 50 million years of amazing geological history of the Cypress Hills. Includes a tour to Bald Butte. Your own transportation required.
Location: Visitor Centre
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: RM4, EC7, WS8, ES30

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Self-Use Kits

Geocaching (Grade 4 – 12)

Teachers lead their students on a modified geocache circuit designed to teach how to use a GPS unit.
Location: Pick up self-use kits at Admin office
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE10, PE20, PE30.

Life in a Pond (Grade 1-6)

Students become Private Investigators discovering the wonders of the freshwater environment by looking at and observing life in the pond. Explore pond animals, plants and smaller aquatic organisms. Recommend rubber boots.
Location: Pick up self-use kits at Admin office
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: LTK, NSK, LT1, SE1, DS1, AN2, AW2, PL3, ES3, HC4, RW5, DL6.

Orienteering (Grade 4 – 12)

Knowing how to use a compass is a basic outdoor skill. Learn the basics of cardinal directions, how to use a compass and play compass games. Includes compasses, game props and teacher instructions. Instructions can be emailed ahead of visit by request.
Location: Pick up self-use kits at Admin office
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE10, PE20, PE30.

Hashing (Grade 4 – 12)

A challenging outdoor activity designed to enhance observation skills and awareness of direction and travel in the forest environment. Includes course and instructions.
Location: Pick up self-use kits at Admin office
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE10, PE20, PE30.

Skill Development Programs

Geocaching (Grade 4 – 12)

Students learn to navigate using Global Positioning System (GPS) to find hidden caches. Limited to maximum 24 students and chaperones combined in each session. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and runners/boots required. GPS units and course provided.
Location: Meet at the baseball diamond
Duration: 1 to 1.5 hours
Curriculum: PE4, PE5, PE6, PE7, PE8, PE9, PE10, PE20, PE30.

Additional Information

Park Quick Facts:

- Programs are offered in the Centre Block
- 27 km of scenic hiking trails
- Observatory with classroom for astronomy study
- Canoeing or pond dipping on Loch Leven
- Picnic areas available, some with covered picnic shelter and briquette barbeque

In the Area:

- 1 hour drive to Fort Walsh National Historic Site
- 27 km from Maple Creek

Know Before You Go

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

Be Prepared for the Weather:
Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, warm and waterproof clothing. Rubber boots may also be required for your program.

Cell Coverage:
There is reliable cell service at Cypress Hills Interprovincial 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 arriving late. We will try to accommodate changes; however, late arrivals may result in program reduction or cancellation due to other school booking commitments.

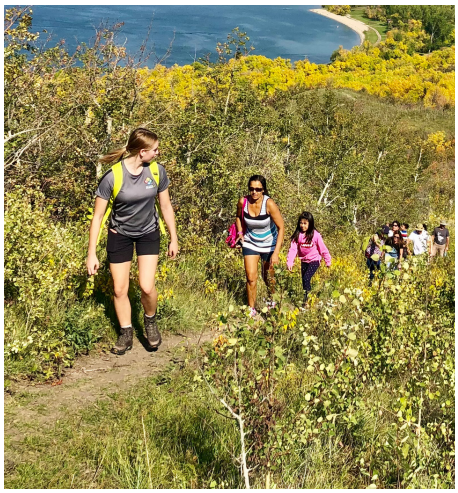
Campfires:
Campfires are allowed in the park. Please bring matches, roasting sticks and an axe. Wood is provided on site. Please discuss campfire needs during your booking. In the case of fire restrictions, campfires are prohibited. To find out if the park is under a fire restriction, head to saskparks.com.

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 Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park at www.saskparks.com.



Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park

Education Program Booking Request Form

You will receive a response within 10 business days to confirm your booking. Park Interpreters begin work in May and will contact you at that time to finalize details. If desired, group camping must be booked separately by contacting the park office at 306-662-5411.

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 306-662-5411.*

Preferred Program Date:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

Planned Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____

Select desired program(s):

- ☐ *Bison Habitat (K-4)*
- ☐ *Spring in the Hills (K-11)*
- ☐ *Whispering Pines Nature Walk (7-12)*
- ☐ *Forest Study (K-6)*
- ☐ *Geology of the Cypress Hills (4-12)*
- ☐ *Aquatic Ecosystem Exploration (K-12)*
- ☐ *SkyTrek Astronomy (4-11)*
- ☐ *Canoe Skill Instruction (6-12)*
- ☐ *Geocaching (4-12)*
- ☐ *Life in a Pond (self-use 1-6)*
- ☐ *Geocaching (self-use 4-12)*
- ☐ *Orienteering (self-use 4-12)*
- ☐ *Hashing (self-use 4-12)*

Please choose preferred time(s):

☐ *9:00 a.m.* ☐ *10:30 a.m.* ☐ *1:30 p.m.* ☐ *3:00 p.m.* ☐ *Night Astronomy: 9:30 p.m.*

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 no later than May 23, 2023 and include the park's name in the subject line.

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