



Northeast Alberta Parks:

Environmental Education



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Snow Buddies



**Program Available:**

December—March,

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at **[dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)**

**Grade Level:** Early Childhood Education: PreK– Gr.3

**Program Description:** This exploratory approach to learning about nature and winter is offered for ages 4-8 (or PreK-Gr 3). Activities can include snow play, snowshoeing, animal and plant adaptations to winter and more! Topics and activities are adapted for age group.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Kindergarten– Environment and community awareness: recognizes changes in weather and some ways people and animals adapt to the seasons; explores and investigates objects and events in the environment.
- Gr. 1 – Seasonal changes: Describe the regular and predictable cycle of seasonal changes; identify and describe examples of plant and animal changes that occur on a seasonal basis. Social studies: Human interactions with natural systems.
- Gr. 2 – Science: Identify materials that insulate animals from the cold and identify materials that are used by humans for the same purpose; recognize that small animals, like humans, have homes where they meet their basic needs; identify and give examples of ways that small animals avoid predators.
- Gr. 3 – Animal lifecycles: Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life; demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# “Is a Camel a Mammal?”



**Program Available:**

Year Round

**Program Location:**

**In your classroom!**

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at [dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)

**Grade Level:** Early Childhood Education: PreK-2

**Program Description:** Mammals breathe air, have hair, and are warm to the touch— which animals are mammals? We’ll find out! With storytelling, games, and dance, students will learn all about mammals of Alberta. They will also have hands-on time with real animal specimens of furs and skulls!

**Curriculum Links:**

- Kindergarten— Environment and community awareness: shows awareness of similarities and differences in living things, objects and materials; recognizes familiar animals and their characteristics and surroundings.
- Gr. 1— Needs of plants and animals: Observe, describe and compare living things; classify some common local plants and animals into groups on the basis of visible characteristics; identify examples of plants and animals that are domesticated and those that are wild.
- Gr. 2 – Small crawling & flying animals: Compare and contrast small animals that are found in the local environment; small animals’ basic needs of air, food, water, shelter and space; describe any special characteristics that help the animal survive in its home.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Mini Park Investigators



## Program Available:

May - June,  
September - October

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten

**Program Description:** Students investigate nature through the use of colour matching and simple scavenger hunts. Students participate in the “100cm hike” where they will examine a small area and focus on noticing small details.

## Curriculum Links:

- Students will explore their environment and share their stories and experiences.
- Students will use technology (magnifying glass) to investigate the natural world.
- Students will identify differences and similarities between objects.
- Students will use their senses to identify patterns in nature.
- Students will learn respect for the group, for the speaker, for their peers, and respect for the environment.
- Students will participate in physically active games and activities.
- Students will express their experiences creatively through art.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Parks in Mini



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 1

**Program Description:** Students participate in a forest habitats scavenger hunt using each of the five senses. Students will be tasked with finding the perfect home for a variety of animals through an animal homes activity and presenting their habitat to the class. Students will be able to identify the needs of the animal and how they relate to human needs.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will explore their environment using the five senses.
- Students will discuss the seasons and how they affect wildlife.
- Students will identify the needs of animals and plants.
- Students will compare their own needs with the needs of plants and animals.
- Students will work in groups and work on leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.
- Students will participate in active outdoor pursuits.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Wild About Winter



**Program Available:**

December-March

**Program Location:**

**In your classroom!**

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at [dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)

**Grade Level:** Grades 1-3

**Program Description:** How is winter different than summer? What makes it tough to live outside in Alberta in the winter? Students will investigate how Alberta's wildlife migrate, hibernate, and adapt to winter in order to survive through interactive activities and sensory experiences.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Kindergarten– Environment and community awareness: recognizes changes in weather and some ways people and animals adapt to the seasons; explores and investigates objects and events in the environment.
- Gr. 1 – Seasonal changes: Describe the regular and predictable cycle of seasonal changes; identify and describe examples of plant and animal changes that occur on a seasonal basis. Social studies: Human interactions with natural systems.
- Gr. 2 – Science: Identify materials that insulate animals from the cold and identify materials that are used by humans for the same purpose; recognize that small animals, like humans, have homes where they meet their basic needs; identify and give examples of ways that small animals avoid predators.
- Gr. 3 – Animal lifecycles: Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life; demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Bugs and Biodiversity



## Program Available:

May - June,  
September - October

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 2

**Program Description:** Students will learn the differences between insects and spiders and will explore different insect and animal habitats. Students will be given the opportunity to “dress up a bug” using insect costume parts and get hands on in a bug hunt.

## Curriculum Links:

- Students will compare invertebrates and identify differences between insects and spiders.
- Students will identify different insect habitats.
- Students will determine where different invertebrates fall in the food chain.
- Students will learn how to appropriately handle wildlife.
- Students will learn to work as a team to accomplish a goal.
- Students will develop teamwork and communication skills.
- Students will participate in active and engaging outdoor activities.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Wildlife Cycles



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Program Description:** Students learn about mammal and amphibian life cycles through a frog life cycle card game. Students show their knowledge of complete and incomplete life cycles using insect puzzles. Program wraps up with an animal habitat scavenger hunt and pond dipping.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will identify differences between mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Students will predict the lifecycles of a variety of wildlife (birds, mammals, amphibians, insects)
- Students will identify different animal habitats.
- Students will learn about threats to the survival of animals (focus on frogs) and habitat degradation.
- Students will learn about how humans impact animal habitat, both positively and negatively.
- Students will encounter multiple life stages of different species through pond dipping.
- Students will learn about parenting strategies in a variety of species.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Endangered Species



**Program Available:**

Year Round

**Program Location:**

**In your classroom!**

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at [dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Program Description:** Parks are especially important in the protection of threatened and endangered species in Alberta because they are such a great habitat and are protected places. Students will discuss conservation and why protecting plants and animals is important. We'll talk about some endangered plant and animal species in Alberta and we'll learn about what you can do to help protect endangered species and their habitats!

**Curriculum Links:**

Animal lifecycles:

- Demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.
- Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life
- Identify examples of environmental conditions that may threaten animal survival, and identify examples of extinct animals. Recognize that habitat preservation can help maintain animal populations, and identify ways that student actions can assist habitat preservation.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Winter Ecology



## Program Available:

December—March,

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to

book a program please

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[dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)

**Grade Level:** Grades 4-6

**Program Description:** This program is a series of activities designed to develop an understanding of how plants and animals meet their basic needs in winter. We examine our relationship with winter, how this period of cold and snow affects us, and how we can become better prepared for the season of the cold. Students uncover the characteristics of snow and identify animal tracks. Topics and activities are adapted for age group.

## Curriculum Links:

- Grade 4 – Plant growth and changes, safety and responsibility, dangerous situations, skills in an alternative environment, teamwork, Alberta: The Land, Histories and Stories.
- Grade 5 – Weather, safety and responsibility, recreational situations, skills in an alternative environment, teamwork, Canada: The Land, Histories and Stories.
- Grade 6 – Evidence and Investigation
- Science : Adaptations, environmental factors.
- Social Studies: satisfying basic needs, environmental issues, the role of people in the protection and sustaining of protected areas.
- Physical Education : Safety outdoors, running & aerobic exercise
- Leadership, outdoor safety, teamwork, skill development, personal and social responsibility.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Boreal Forest Plants



## Program Available:

May - June,  
September - October

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Program Description:** Students will learn the parts of the plant and their functions as well as the needs of the plant and how those needs affect plant growth. Students will become familiar with seed types and the different methods of seed transport through a card game. Students will participate in a scavenger hunt and learn to identify common plants and trees.

## Curriculum Links:

- Students will demonstrate understanding of the importance of plants to humans and their various uses.
- Students will identify the parts of the plant and their functions.
- Students will describe the needs of the plant.
- Students will discover plant propagation techniques and seed transfer mechanisms.
- Students will recognize individual plant communities and how the needs of plant communities differ.
- Students will be able to identify common forest trees and plants.
- Students will identify recyclers in a forest environment.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Get the Dirt on the Boreal Forest



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Program Description:** Students will learn about the importance of soil and decomposition in forest. They will experience soil sampling and learn how soil types relate to plant growth. Students will also draw relationships between the forest, natural regions, and recycling.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Identify plant and animal wastes, and describe how they are recycled in nature.
- Identify actions that individuals and groups can take to minimize the production of wastes, to recycle or reuse wastes and to ensure the safe handling and disposal of wastes.
- Recognize that a variety of plant communities can be found within the local area and that differences in plant communities are related to variations in the amount of light, water and other conditions
- Students will discover plant propagation techniques and seed transfer mechanisms.
- An understanding and appreciation of how elements of physical geography, climate, and geology are integral to the landscapes and environment of Alberta.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Wetland Discovery



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to

book a program please

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**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Program Description:** Students will study biotic and abiotic factors that influence wetland health through observations of wetland sounds and objects. Students will learn about the different types of wetland plants and will discuss a variety of water quality tests. The program wraps up with pond dipping.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will identify characteristics of a wetland.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of how living and non-living things contribute to environmental health.
- Students learn about water health and quality tests and how they affect wildlife.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of wetland wildlife and their habits.
- Students learn about the function of wetlands and how this impacts their daily lives.
- Students learn about the effects of human actions on wetlands.
- Students learn about wetland conservation and preservation.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Why Parks?



**Program Available:**

Year Round

**Program Location:**

**In your classroom!**

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at [dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Program Description:** Why do we have parks in Alberta? What makes them important? Students learn about the Provincial Park system and the purpose of designating parks and protected areas. Students will identify Alberta's Natural Regions, learn about a park in each region, and be able to identify the value being protected. Students will brainstorm challenges to a successful park and have a chance to "manage" their own park!

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will learn about Alberta's Natural Regions and will be able to identify them.
- Students will identify their local natural region and the environmental value it provides to their community.
- Students will learn about the environmental, historical, and cultural importance of Alberta's protected areas.
- Students will identify and assess current Parks issues and develop solutions.
- Students will learn about important locations to various Aboriginal groups, fur traders, ranchers, and the North West Mounted Police



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Trees and Forests



## Program Available:

May - June,  
September - October

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Program Description:** Students learn the characteristics that define a tree as well as the parts of the tree and their functions. Students will investigate the differences between coniferous and deciduous trees and how to identify them. Students are introduced to the dichotomous key through a card exercise and will be able to identify a number of common trees and plants using the key. The program wraps up with a tree coring and measurement exercise.

## Curriculum Links:

- Students identify the characteristics of a tree and differences between coniferous and deciduous trees.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of the value of forests.
- Students learn to identify common native tree and plant species.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of leaf shapes and patterns.
- Students will identify growth rings and show an understanding of tree growth.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Evidence and Investigation



## Program Available:

May - June,  
September - October

## Program Location:

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

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book a program please  
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## Grade Level: Grade 6

**Program Description:** Students learn to use observational skills and critical thinking through investigating different scenarios. Students will search their scene for clues and evidence to solve their crime, and will question witnesses to gain information. Through these scenarios, students will learn important aspects of Parks regulations and environmental stewardship.

## Curriculum Links:

- Students will locate and analyze examples of human and animal activity.
- Students will identify and group footprints and fingerprints by identifying similar characteristics.
- Students will demonstrate and understanding of cause and effect using available evidence.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a group.
- Students will demonstrate and understanding of how the choices of an individual affect others.
- Students will communicate with “witnesses” to develop and test conclusions.
- Students will engage in active problem solving.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Interactions and Ecosystems



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 7

**Program Description:** Students explore a variety of ecosystems and identify all of the biotic and abiotic factors that form each ecosystem. Students will investigate the interrelations and interdependencies between all members of an ecosystem and create a food web.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will identify relationships between biotic and abiotic factors.
- Students will gain an understanding of the complexity of ecosystems and how ecosystem size may vary.
- Students will learn about symbiotic relationships and will be able to identify the different types in a natural setting.
- Students will become familiar with the term “niche” and will be able to describe its meaning and interpret the niche of different members of the ecosystem.
- Students will form food chains covering producers, primary and secondary consumers, and decomposers.
- Students will be able to form food chains into a functioning food web.
- Students will discuss human impacts on food webs.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Soil Study



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to book a program please contact **Dixie Colter** at **(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 7-8

**Program Description:** Students will participate in a day-long soil study that provides an introduction into soil science. Students will learn about the formation of soil and how it affects plant growth. Students will perform hands-on soil sampling and texture testing and will be able to link soil type with water behaviour and forest type. Students will learn about potential careers with Parks as well as careers that use the skills learned during the study. Program can be shortened to a half day if required.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students learn how human actions impact soil and forest health.
- Students learn that rocks are the foundation of soil.
- Students use hands on experience to draw conclusions and establish relationships.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of how water moves within soil.
- Students will gain an understanding of complex relationships between soil, water, and plant communities.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Limnology Study



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Grade 8

**Program Description:** Students will participate in a day-long water quality and limnology study that provides comparisons between wetland and lake ecosystems. Students will study the biodiversity of different water bodies and link their findings to abiotic water quality parameters. Students will learn about potential careers with Parks as well as careers that use the skills learned during the study. Program can be shortened to a half day if required.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between types of water bodies.
- Students will learn the variety of water quality tests performed to determine ecosystem health.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of how water quality affects wildlife.
- Students will learn the distribution of aquatic ecosystems across Alberta.
- Students will gather quantitative and qualitative data and draw conclusions from the results.
- Students will discuss the impacts of human actions on aquatic ecosystems.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

# Art in the Park



**Program Available:**

May - June,  
September - October

**Program Location:**

Programs can be scheduled  
at any Provincial Park.

Common locations include:

Sir Winston Churchill

Cold Lake

Moose Lake

Garner Lake

Whitney Lakes

Gregoire Lake

**Program Cost:** \$2/student

For program inquiries or to  
book a program please  
contact **Dixie Colter** at  
**(780) 210-0317** or email at

**Grade Level:** Any

**Program Description:** Students experience nature through the lens of art and creativity. Students are encouraged to notice the small details of their environment and investigate the nuanced colours of nature. Students will discuss how individuals perceive the same landscape differently and how perception influences art. Students create nature themed paintings to take home at the end of the program.

**Curriculum Links:**

- Students will explore texture, colour, and shade.
- Students will compose their own artwork in order to tell a story or convey an emotion.
- Students will extensively study natural forms and how they act within their environment.
- Allows students to visually record a special event or experience.
- Students are encouraged to express themselves through any method or type of art.
- Students will use colour in impactful and meaningful ways.
- Students will understand how perception influences art.



**Couldn't find what you're looking for?** With advance notice, interpreters are happy to create new programs for your class's topic of interest!

Contact us and take learning outdoors!

(780) 210-0317 or email at [dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:dixie.colter@gov.ab.ca)