

Rondeau Provincial Park
In-Park School Programming
Elementary Grades



Rondeau Visitor Centre
c/o Rondeau Provincial Park
18050 Rondeau Park Road
Morpeth, ON
N0P 1X0

Phone: 519-674-1768
Fax : 519-674-1755

About Rondeau Provincial Park

Rondeau Provincial Park is the second oldest Provincial Park in Ontario, and one of the most biologically diverse. We are located in the heart of the endangered Carolinian forest with one of the largest remaining tracts in all of Canada. Because of this, Rondeau is home to wide variety of habitat types and diverse flora and fauna – many of which are rare outside of the park!

Rondeau Provincial Park represents an outstanding natural resource in many respects, not least of which is the opportunity for a diverse array of educational opportunities. Our curriculum-based school programs offer an excellent complement to in-class learning objectives required through the Science and Technology components.

For more information on Rondeau Provincial Park, please feel free to visit the Friends of Rondeau website (www.rondeauprovincialpark.ca) or give us a call at 519-674-1768.

A Visit to Rondeau with your Class!

Field Trips to Rondeau are an excellent addition to help student's further their learning through the use of hands-on activities and experiences. Our aim is to inspire a passion for understanding and conserving our natural environment through these experiential opportunities.

Programs do not have a fee associated with them, but there is an entrance fee per vehicle. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information in regards to Daily Vehicle Permits and Bus Permits to enter the park area as these prices change on a yearly basis.

What is required of you, the teacher:

- Pre-Booking. We require all programs to be booked in advance due to staffing requirements for the number of students on the trip. Attached is the booking request form. You may either return a completed copy via fax or call the Rondeau Visitor Centre with the necessary information.
- Payment upon entering the park. The front gate will issue your bus, or vehicles, with Daily Vehicle Permits (please call to inquire about cost) upon entering the park. You will be required to pay at this time. If you would prefer to send in a cheque at a later date, please inform us ahead of time so that we can prepare an invoice for your group upon arrival. If you have any questions about payment, please contact the Rondeau Main Office at 519-674-1750.

What is required of your students:

- Lunch or snacks
- Appropriate clothing and footwear (we go rain or shine)
- Bug spray and/or Sunscreen
- Water
- Respectful behaviour for the protected and special environment that they will be exploring, as well as for the park staff, parent volunteers, teachers and other campers/day users in the park.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Each segment of each Program will run for approximately 30 minutes. Depending on the size of your class, we may require that they be split into smaller groups where we will complete the Guided Hike and Hands-on Activities portions on a rotation, followed by time to explore the Visitor Centre as a whole group. Each program typically runs for a total of 1.5 hours and is stationed out of the Rondeau Provincial Park Visitor Centre. When booking your class, please inform park staff if you have any time constraints and the program will be worked out accordingly. If you're interested in spending more time within the park, we can discuss your options upon booking.

If your grade level is not addressed, we encourage you to inquire at the park as we will most likely be able to accommodate your curriculum aims.

If you are interested in spending more time in the park during your trip, we can certainly discuss your options! With over 30km of hiking trails, beautiful beaches and the many available pavilions – there's so much to do around Rondeau!

For more information, please call the Rondeau Provincial Park Visitor Centre at 519-674-1768

Kindergarten (JK/SK) - INSECTS

Curriculum Connections

Social Development:

- 1.2 Demonstrate the ability to take turns in activities and discussion

Emotional Development:

- 1.2 Demonstrate the willingness to try new activities

Languages:

- 1.7 Use specialised vocabulary for a variety of purposes
- 1.8 Ask questions for a variety of purposes and in different contexts

Science and Technology

- 1.1 Ask questions about and describe some natural occurrences, using their own observations and representations
- 1.3 Explore patterns in the natural and built environment
- 2.4 Communicate results and findings from individual and group investigation

Brief Outline of Program: Insects

Guided Hike (30 minutes)

Along Tulip Tree Trail, we often see a great diversity of insects and other arthropods. During this half hour hike we will stop to discuss some of the amazing insects that we can find in Southern Ontario, and in Rondeau Provincial Park, along with why they are an important part of our ecosystem. Along the way, we will look for butterflies and other insects that we can catch and take a closer look at!

Hands-on Activities (30 minutes)

During this portion of the program, we will use hands-on activities to further advance the student's understanding of what makes an insect, an insect. Focusing on the lifecycle and important features of two of Rondeau's most famous insect families, your students should leave with a better appreciating of all of our six-legged friends!

Visitor Centre Exploration (30 minutes, or time permitting)

We encourage you to leave some time available to explore the Visitor Centre. Here you and your students will have the opportunity to see the many species that call Rondeau their home! Park Naturalists will be on hand to answer questions, along with an optional Snake Talk where your students will have the opportunity to interact with Pants, our resident Eastern Foxsnake.

Grade Two – GROWTH AND CHANGE IN ANIMALS

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology

- 2.2 Observe and compare the physical and behavioural characteristics of a variety of animals, including insects, using student generated questions and a variety of methods and resources
- 2.3 Investigate the life cycle of a variety of animals, using a variety of methods and resources
- 2.4 Observe and compare changes in the appearance and activity of animals as they go through a complete life cycle
- 2.5 Investigate the ways in which a variety of animals adapt to their environment and/or to changes in their environment, using a variety of methods
- 2.7 Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including life cycle, migration, adaptation, body coverings, and classify, in oral and written communication
- 3.2 Describe an adaptation as a characteristic body part, shape or behaviour that helps a plant or animal survive in its environment

Brief Outline of Program: Growth and Changes in Animals

Guided Hike (30 minutes)

Here in Southern Ontario, we can have some interesting winters! Some years it's quite mild, and others are very harsh. We have wonderful houses, and warm clothing to keep us warm – but what do our animal friends do? During this 30 minute hike down Tulip Tree Trail, we will explore the world of overwintering strategies used by some of the mammals, reptiles and birds that call Rondeau their home (even if it's only for a portion of the year).

Hands-on Activities (30 minutes)

During this portion of the program, we will explore how different species grow up through their various lifecycles using hands-on activities and active discussion.

Visitor Centre Exploration (30 minutes, or time permitting)

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Grade Three – GROWTH AND CHANGE IN PLANTS

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology

- 1.1 Assess ways in which plants are important to humans and other living things, taking different points of view into consideration and suggest ways in which humans can protect plants
- 2.2 Observe and compare the parts of a variety of plants
- 2.6 Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including stem, leaf, root, pistil, stamen, flower, adaptation, and germination in oral and written communication
- 3.1 Describe the basic needs of plants, including air, water, light, warmth and space
- 3.2 Identify the major parts of plants, including root, stem, flower, stamen, pistil, leaf, seed and fruit, and describe how each contributes to the plant's survival within the plant's environment
- 3.4 Describe how most plants get energy to live directly from the sun and how plants help other living things to get energy from the sun
- 3.5 Describe ways in which humans from various cultures, including Aboriginal people, use plants for food, shelter, medicine and clothing

Brief Outline of Program: Growth and Changes in Plants

Guided Hike (30 minutes)

In the heart of Carolinian Canada, we have over 850 species of plants – each one very unique and important to the health of our ecosystem. During this 30 minute hike down Tulip Tree Trail, we will

explore the needs and functions of trees, and other plants, and how they can influence the success of our Carolinian Forests and the other species that live there.

Hands-on Activities (30 minutes)

There are many different species of trees in Ontario – each unique in their identifying features, as well as the ways in which they are used by animals, including humans! In these hands-on activities, your class will learn about the parts of a tree as well how to identify a few key species that can be found in your backyard!

Visitor Centre Exploration (30 minutes, or time permitting)

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Grade Four – HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology

- 1.1 Analyse the positive and negative impacts of human interactions with natural habitats and communities, taking different perspectives into account, and evaluate ways of minimizing the negative impacts
- 2.5 Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including habitat, population, community, adaptation and food chain
- 3.1 Demonstrate an understanding of habitats as areas that provide plants and animals with the necessities of life
- 3.3 Identify factors that affect the ability of plants and animals to survive in a specific habitat
- 3.4 Demonstrate an understanding of a community as a group of interacting species sharing a common habitat
- 3.7 Describe structural adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive in specific habitat
- 3.10 Describe ways in which humans are dependent on natural habitats and communities

Brief Outline of Program: Habitats and Communities

Guided Hike (30 minutes)

From the Carolinian forest to the ephemeral waters of the sloughs to the importance of the soil beneath your feet, Rondeau has a wide variety of habitats to allow for a wide array of species that depend on them. A hike on Tulip Tree Trail will take you, and your students, through many of these habitat types, addressing the importance of each and why we are conserving them.

Hands-on Activities (30 minutes)

The aim of this portion is to delve into the idea of interconnectedness within habitats and between communities. What happens when something is taken away? Or impacted negatively? What about positive impacts?

Using a variety of hands-on activities and active discussions, we will look at what it means to be part of a community and why these relationships are important in all aspects of our natural and built world.

Visitor Centre Exploration (30 minutes, or time permitting)

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Grade Six – BIODIVERSITY

Curriculum Connections

Science and Technology

- 1.2 Assess the benefits that human societies derive from biodiversity and the problems that occur when biodiversity is diminished
- 2.4 Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including classification, biodiversity, natural community, interrelationships, vertebrate, invertebrate, stability, characteristic and organism
- 3.2 Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity as the variety of life on earth, including variety within each species of plant and animal, among species of plants and animals in communities, and among communities and the physical landscapes that support them
- 3.7 Explain how invasive species reduce biodiversity in local environments

Brief Outline of Program: Biodiversity

Guided Hike (30 minutes)

Rondeau is home to one of the largest collections of species in Canada – boasting a huge amount of biodiversity and is one of the reasons we work so hard to protect it! We will discuss the many reasons why the biodiversity of Rondeau is world renowned, and have the opportunity to see many of these amazing species first hand.

Hands-on Activities (30 minutes)

During this segment, we will discuss the meaning of biodiversity and why this concept is important for all life on earth. We will also discuss, through hands-on activities, how specific balances that keep biodiversity in-check can be affected by various human, and non-human, activities.

Visitor Centre Exploration (30 minutes, or time permitting)

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ONTARIO
PARKS

Rondeau Provincial Park

School Group Booking Request Form

Rondeau Contact:

Phone:

Fax : 519-674-1755

School:

Contact:

Phone:

Fax:

Fee: \$62.50 (Bus Permit) and/or \$17.00 (Daily Vehicle Permit). Cheques can be made out to the 'Minister of Finance.' (Fee applicable on or before October 25, 2015 – for trips after this date, please contact the Visitor Centre at 519-674-1768)

School Program to be delivered

Grade:

Date:

Choice A: _____

Choice B: _____

Choice C: _____

Preferred Arrival Time:

Other Information: