

# Key Messages for School Groups

*These must be communicated to students and adult volunteers visiting Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.*

1. Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas belong to all Albertans and contain many different natural landscapes that are home to numerous plant and animal species. The province's network of parks and protected areas covers roughly 27,500 square kilometres and includes more than 500 sites. This network helps to ensure that Alberta's biodiversity is preserved for future generations.
2. Our vision: "Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas preserve, in perpetuity, landscapes, natural features, and processes representative of the environmental diversity of the province."
3. Provincial parks exist to protect provincially significant natural, historical and cultural features. They contain a range of outdoor recreation, interpretive, and environmental education opportunities, facilities and services so that visitors can explore, learn, understand, and appreciate the natural world.
4. The Provincial Parks Act protects Alberta's parks. It is through this legislation that these landscapes have specific and important guidelines to help keep them healthy and vibrant.
5. Feeding of wildlife is not necessary. It is potentially dangerous and is against Park rules. The Park's ecosystem provides all the food and habitat wildlife requires for their basic needs. Human food does not meet their nutritional requirements and can cause some species to become dependent on humans. Quietly observe all wildlife from a comfortable distance.
6. Take only pictures. Everything in the Park – living and non-living – is protected to help preserve the complex living system that thrives in our provincial parks. Students are welcome to share their discoveries, but must remember to leave everything as they found it. Treat plants, insects, and trees gently to avoid unnecessary injury or damage. Please do not pick plants.
7. There are no off-leash areas in Alberta's Parks and Protected Areas. This protects the parks wildlife as well as domestic pets. Please do not bring pets on a field study. They can be distractions for students and pose a health risk for those allergic to pets. Guide Dogs and Assisted-Living Dogs are the only animals permitted in Park buildings.
8. Litter should be placed in the waste bins provided or in a pocket. Human litter is hazardous to Park plants and wildlife.
9. Open fires are a threat to public safety and Park habitats. The burning of Park vegetation is not permitted. There are NO fire pits in Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.