

# Roots: Parents Supporting Parents, Field Trips

---

Parenting Supporting Parents encourages parents of Roots students to plan and implement field trips that they want their children to enjoy.

It's easy!!

1. Choose a venue
2. Contact venue
3. Decide payment method
4. Write a small blurb, following the format shown in the examples on page 2.
5. Send blurb for approval to Jennie Van Hooft, approval designates the fieldtrip as a Roots sanctioned event!
6. Facilitators will send info to families
7. Take registration information from Roots families and collect the fieldtrip funds.
8. Take attendance at the fieldtrip and pay the provider for the Roots group.

Before asking this long list of questions, inform the contact person, that you are Roots mom looking to book a fieldtrip for the Roots home education group. Please note that some vendors have had bad experiences with homeschool group; let's keep fieldtrips open to everyone. We don't want to burn any bridges.

- Is there a booking deposit needed? If yes, is it refundable if the fieldtrip needs to be cancelled?
- Does the deposit get used towards the final bill?
- When does the final bill need to be paid? Sometimes it can be paid the day of, other times it needs to be paid prior to the fieldtrip.
- Is there a fee for students and or parents? Is there a discount for groups? Is there a discount for school groups?
- What is their cancellation policy? How far in advance can you cancel without penalties?
- What happens if the fieldtrip needs to be cancelled due to weather? If the trip is at an outdoor location, can it be rebooked at no cost?
- How far in advance do you need to confirm the booking with the final numbers for students attending? If the deadline for returning a deposit is earlier than the date for submitting final numbers, bump your registration date to several days before the deposit return date. This gives a few days for a call out for more registrations.
- How many adults are permitted to attend? Is there an additional fee for the parents or can they be counted as supervisors? Are there instructions for parents?
- What is the age range the fieldtrip is geared towards – are they able to teach to a wide age range in one group or does there need to be multiple groups divided by ages?
- Can younger or older siblings attend? Sometimes places will only allow the age range for the fieldtrip, specifically no babies or toddlers.
- What will be taught on the fieldtrip? Is there anything the parents should talk to their children about prior to coming on the trip that would help them understand the fieldtrip better? Do you have recommended websites for information?
- Are there potential safety issues our parents should know to ensure the safety of the Roots students? Suggestions are appreciated.

- Is there information regarding the location of the fieldtrip that parents should have? Are there rules or expectations parents need to know regarding this fieldtrip? (Sometimes there are special requirements such as clothing (closed toed shoes) or hair pulled back in a ponytail if going to a food prep area.)
- Who is the contact person who will meet our group at the fieldtrip? Is this person the same person coordinating the fieldtrip during the booking process? What is the contact phone numbers and e-mails in case they need to be reached?
- Where specifically can the Roots group gather prior to starting the fieldtrip (in order for attendance to be taken and name tags to be handed out)?
- How long will the fieldtrip/tour take?
- Is there designated parking for the families to use during the fieldtrip?
- How much prior to the field trip time does our group need to be there for preliminary information to be given?

Examples of blurbs sent out to Roots in previous years:

**Weaselhead Preservation** We will be studying a variety of nature related things at the Weaselhead Preservation. We may talk about plants in a natural community, human waste and pollution or about the forest. We may even have a debate on whether or not to take down the trees to expand the SW Ring Road. This will be very much geared to whoever shows up. They are very flexible about what will be taught that day!

Date: Wednesday, September 19

Registration deadline: September 15

Time: 9:15-2:30

Location: 37th and 66th Ave SW

Target Grades: All welcome.

Cost: \$9/student (K and up)

Payment: e-transfer or send cheque in the mail

Contact: Kari Bell by phone 587-353-6305 or email [karimcbell@gmail.com](mailto:karimcbell@gmail.com)

Notes: Min. 20 Max. 30 Bring a bag lunch. Dress for the weather. There are no washrooms or water on site so please come prepared. We will be doing a lot of hiking, so keep that in mind when deciding to register younger students. Heavy duty strollers will work on the hike.

**Enmax Electrical Safety Presentation**

Our presenter will bring out the Hazard Hamlet, an electrical simulator featuring dangerous situations, and give a fun and informative session on electricity and being safe at home, school, and play. ENMAX safety gear is also displayed to help kids understand why not every insulator can be counted on for safety when it comes to power lines and broken appliances.

Date: Wednesday, October 3

Registration Deadline: September 14

Time: 9:45-11:00

Location: TBD

Target Grades: 5, all welcome

Cost: \$2

Contact: Kari Bell by phone 587-353-6305 or email [karimcbell@gmail.com](mailto:karimcbell@gmail.com)

Payment: pay at fieldtrip. Please bring exact change in an envelope with the names of the participants on it.

# Roots Sanctioned Events

---

Watch for updates as community develops and families enjoy both educational opportunities and one another!

January:

February:

March:

April:

May:

May 3- Field Trip to The Military Museum geared toward students in grade 7-12 (more info to follow)

May 28- Roots family Sports Day and picnic

June:

Join HOMESCHOOL DAYS at the following locations. If you plan on attending with your family please register directly with the venue. Make sure to tell your Roots friends – they will likely want to join you!

Bricks 4 Kids

Calgary Zoo,  
<http://www.calgaryzoo.com/school-programs/programs-schools/home-school-days>

Fort Calgary,  
<http://www.fortcalgary.com/programs/homeschool>

Green Calgary,  
<http://www.greencalgary.org/green-kids/home-school-days>

Heritage Park,  
<https://www.heritagepark.ca/plan-your-visit/event-calendar/homeschooler-day.html>

Nakiska Mountain Resort

Patterson Springs Farm,  
<http://www.pattersonspringsfarm.com/Homeschool-Days.html>

Royal Tyrrell Museum,  
<http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/programs/Homeschool.htm>

SpacePort at Calgary International Airport

Telus Spark Science Centre,  
<http://www.sparkscience.ca/visit/school-programs/HomeschoolDay>

# Theatre Productions

---

Stay tuned to Roots-talk for Roots parents who are organizing theatre productions. Or, check on roots-talk to see if other Roots families are interested, then book a group!

## **Alberta Theatre Projects**

[atplive.com](http://atplive.com)

### Buyer and Cellar

Playing in April

Grade 7+

## **Theatre Calgary**

[theatreocalgary.com](http://theatreocalgary.com)

### A Christmas Carol

Playing in Nov and Dec

Grades 4+

### The Little Prince - The Musical

Playing in January and February

Grades 5+

### The Light in the Piazza

Playing in May

Grade 7+

## **Rosebud Theatre**

<http://www.rosebudtheatre.com/tickets>

### Twisted Tales: Sleeping Beauty

Playing in March 2-5

## **Storybook Theatre**

[www.storybooktheatre.org](http://www.storybooktheatre.org)

### Lord of the Flies

Playing in February

Ages 10+

### Paper Bag Princess: a musical

Playing in March

Ages 6+

### Goodnight Moon: the musical

Playing in April and May

Ages 3+

### The Complete Works of William Shakespeare

(abridged)

Playing in April and May

Ages 10+

### The Little Mermaid

Playing in May and June

Ages 6 +

## **Fire Exit Theatre**

[www.fireexit.ca](http://www.fireexit.ca)

### Shadowlands

Playing in May

## **Y Theatre**

<http://www.vertigotheatre.com/shows/y-stage>

### Old Man & the River

Playing March 18 - 20

Others:

### **Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra**

[calgaryphil.com](http://calgaryphil.com)

### **Calgary International Children's Festival**

[calgarykidsfest.ca](http://calgarykidsfest.ca)

May 25-28

# Event Idea Library

---

## **This is a list of places in Calgary that have pre-registered programs.**

Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area  
Aero Space Museum  
Bow Habitat Station and Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery  
Butterfield Acres  
Canada's Sports Hall of Fame  
Calgary's Corn Maze  
Calgary Recycling Depot  
Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society  
Chinese Cultural Centre  
Fort Calgary  
Glenbow Museum  
Heritage Park  
Inglewoc Bird Sanctuary  
McDougall Centre  
Military Museum  
Olivier's Candy  
Safety City  
- traffic safety  
- bike riding and safety  
Space Port @ Calgary International Airport  
Spruce Meadows  
STARS Air Ambulance  
STEM Learning Lab  
Telus Spark  
Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
Weaselhead Preservation Society  
Youth Link: Police Interpretive Centre

## **Activities with multiple areas in the city**

Archery  
Art classes  
Farms - surrounding Calgary  
Fire Department  
Greenhouse tours  
Honey Farms  
- Chinook Honey  
- Greidanus Honey Mill  
Library - Tour of  
Rafting  
Rock Climbing

## **Lesson Ideas**

Art  
Skiing/snowboarding  
Swimming

## **Parks**

Some have self-guided tours

Fish Creek Park  
Nose Hill Park  
Pearce Estate Park (with Interpretative Wetlands trail)  
Ralph Klein Park  
St. Patrick's Island Park

## **Out of the City**

Alberta Legislature  
Bankhead Ghost Town  
Bar-U-Ranch  
Cave and Basin in Banff  
Fairmont/ Banff Springs Hotel Tour  
Frank Slide  
Head-Smashed in Buffalo Jump

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Calgary Drop-in Centre  
Calgary Humane Society  
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank  
Meals on wheels  
Operation Christmas Child Box

## **Specific Dates**

Aggie Days  
April 9-10 open to public (free)  
or pre-register for April 6-8

Calgary Youth Science Fair  
April 16, 2016

# Fieldtrip Etiquette

---

Families participating in fieldtrips represent home education students in general, the Christian community, and the Roots Home Education Program. Parents, please be proactive in ensuring you and your children represent our community well.

1. Parents are responsible for the safety of their own children, but as part of a Christian community we ask all parents to be on alert for potential safety issues.
2. Make payment arrangements with the field trip organizer. If you cannot attend, parents remain responsible for payment unless you're able to find a replacement. Replacements are often quickly found through Roots-talk.
3. Respect the facilities' rules. Observe the guidelines given for eating, drinking, petting or feeding animals, and remaining in authorized areas.
4. Respect the age restrictions. These are given to enhance the learning for all children.
5. Be on time for all events. This usually means 30 minutes before scheduled time of event to allow for gathering the students together, taking roll, and purchasing tickets. Families arriving after the group has checked in may forfeit their event fee and be on their own to check in.
6. Be respectful and courteous to the speakers, tour guides, and employees of the facility. It is possible that they are volunteering their time. We want to make a good first impression.
7. Keep comments positive during the event. Reserve criticism for later. Use pleasant friendly language.
8. Parents, watch your children. They should not be left unattended. If you must discipline your student, please do so in a positive and private manner. If any students are misbehaving it is at the discretion of the organizer to ask you to leave.
9. Prepare your children in advance for the event. Let him/her know as much as possible about what they will encounter. This will help them know what is expected and encourage further inquiry.
10. A thank you note is always welcomed by places you visit.
11. Families are responsible for their own transportation to events.
12. Enjoy yourselves and build community as you learn together.
13. Thank your organizer for facilitating this event.

# Family Registration

---

Fieldtrip registering for: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact organizer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Contact Information:**

Parent's name:	
Cell #:	
Best e-mail contact:	
Emergency contact #:	

**Student Information:**

Student Name	Birth Date (day/mo/yr)	Grade	Roots office has signed waiver on file for this child (yes or no)

Cost (payment of fieldtrip cost guarantees your spot and enables our parent volunteers to pay the vendor):

		Cost/adult or student	Calculate
Number of adults attending:			
Number of students attending:			
		<b>Total:</b>	
Payment method:			
Date:			
Confirmation or registration: (completed by organizer)			

