Planning Checklist: When visiting Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park it helps to be prepared; be sure that the students are dressed for the weather. Here’s a list of items to have to ensure that you have an enjoyable experience at the Park:

- Coat or Jacket
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Hat
- Boots or Hiking Shoes
- Lunch (Day long programs)
- Water or Juice

The Learning Centre in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park does have a place where students can eat their lunch inside. All Environmental Education programs run rain or shine, so be sure to come prepared for the weather.

The Fall and Winter of 2014 and 2015 will see some exciting additions to the programming lineup in the Cypress Hills. There are a number of new offerings from a portable star lab to canoeing, mountain biking and a winter activity day filled with cross country skiing and snowshoeing!

Star Lab
Ever wonder what it’s like to land on Mars or fly through the rings of Saturn? Take part in an out of this world experience with the Cypress Hills Star Lab! This program takes you on an interplanetary and interstellar journey where you have the opportunity to observe, describe and interpret objects in the night sky. (Program length ranges from 45 to 75 min. depending on grade level)
Cost: Call or email for details. This program will travel to your school.

Learn to Canoe
Interested in learning how to paddle a canoe? Come take part in this new program offering in the Cypress Hills. Paddle Alberta certified canoe instructors will teach you all about the basics of canoeing. (1.5 hours) Instructor Student ratio 1:10; Cost: $15.00 per student

Learn to Mountain Bike
Discover mountain biking on our new fleet of Devinci mountain bikes. Ride the new beginner trail in this 1.5 hour long program. Instructor Student Ratio 1:10; Cost: $15.00 per student
Fall/Winter Environmental Education Programs

Look See Paint (Grade 1 and 2)
Discover the ‘art’ in earth. Take part in a nature-based painting program to connect students with the landscape of the Cypress Hills. Visit www.lookseepaint.com for program details. (1 hour)

Bugology (Grade 2)
Discover the wonderful world of bugs in this hands-on program exploring the terrestrial insect life of the Cypress Hills. During this program you will have the opportunity to learn about insect camouflage, and participate in a bug hunt. (1 hour)

Evidence and Investigation (Grade 6)
Untangle a wild mystery in the forest using outdoor investigation techniques. Students will solve a wildlife mystery by examining signs of animal and human activity through studying tracks and traces in nature. (2 hours)

Trees & Forests (Grade 6)
Through a series of activities, students will understand the role and value of forests for humans and wildlife. Analyze the characteristics that distinguish deciduous and coniferous trees from other plants. Identify four or more tree and plant species in different forest environments in the Cypress Hills. (2 hours)

Learn to Fish (Grade 5 to 12)
Reel in a good time as you develop the skills to become an expert angler. Discover what lives in the local water bodies of Cypress Hills and how fishing responsibly can help aquatic conservation. Participants will be given a rod and tackle. No license required. (2 hours)

GPS / Geocaching (Grade 6 to 12)
Discover the thrill of geocaching…a high-tech navigational treasure hunt for all ages! Learn how to use the GPS to find hidden caches with your team, and how GPS, compass and map skills can help navigate the backcountry. (2 hours)

Outdoor Education (Grades 7-12)
Outdoor education programs are based on experiential learning using problem solving techniques and can be adapted to suit the need of your class. Sessions can cover topics such as: fire-lighting (flint and steel), shelter building, ropes and knots, leave no trace. Please call or email to discuss details.

Grade 7, 9 and Biology 20 Field Studies
Explore the ecosystems of the Cypress Hills during this full day field study. Two aquatic ecosystems, and three terrestrial sites are visited during this program. Biotic and abiotic factors will be analyzed and compared at each site. (4 hours, $10 per student)

Winter Activity Day (Grades 1 to 6)
Come out to the Cypress Hills and experience a day of winter fun! Learn about animals and habitats in winter, explore our trails on snowshoe and try out the luge. Cost: $5.00 to $10.00 per student depending on program length.

Winter Survivors (Grades 7 to 12)
Discover what it takes to survive the winter in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Experience the thrill of creating your own winter shelter, fire-lighting, and snowshoeing. Come find out if you have what it takes to survive the Cypress winter! (1 hour pre-trip presentation, 4.5 hours in Cypress Hills) Cost: $10.00 per student

Cross Country Skiing Lessons
Interested in trying the sport of cross country skiing and snowshoeing all in one day? Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park now has cross country skis and snowshoes for rent with certified Canadian Nordic Ski Association instruction available. Come try out these fantastic winter activities! Cost: $15.00 per student

Hop on Board the Bus
For groups of under 24 students leaving from Medicine Hat, we are now offering a flat rate bus service of $150.00. We will pick you up at your school, drive you out to Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and bring you back at the end of the day. A great way to save on transportation costs and drive to the park in style.

Booking a Program
Most education programs are $5 per student per program. A minimum charge of $75.00 will apply for group sizes of 15 and under. Please contact for pricing details on specialty programs. Cheques can be used to pay for programs or Visa and MasterCard can be used onsite. Please make cheques payable to the Government of Alberta. The maximum number of students per program is 30 (unless otherwise stated). There must be at least 1 adult supervisor for every 10 students. Book early!

To book a program, contact: Chris Dodds Interpretive & Education Coordinator Phone: 403.893.3833 Chris.Dodds@gov.ab.ca