

Canada Life School Program

WINTER 2026



Festival du Voyageur

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BIENVENUE AND WELCOME!

For over 50 years Festival du Voyageur has offered educational programming for students of all ages! This year we encourage you to choose your own Festival adventure. Every class will be able to enjoy a unique concert, up to two programs designed to explore themes relevant to the Voyageur era, plus access to included activities. Dress warmly, put on a good pair of boots, and don't forget your tuque!

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

\$17.00 per student

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Self-guided activities around Parc du Voyageur, including Fort Gibraltar

Lunch concert (you get to choose one of 3 lunch concerts)

2 scheduled programs (choose up to 2 programs to complete your experience; see p. 4-6 for descriptions)

WHICH SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO INCLUDED?

Fort Gibraltar (engage with historic interpreters)

Winter Playground (slides, games, and more)

Voyageur Games (compete in traditional games)

Winter Trading Camp (take part in land-based education practices)

Cabane à sucre (warm up and take part in volunteer-led activities and crafts)

Maple Sugaring Camp (discover how maple sugar is made)

La Shed à Léo (Festival du Voyageur Museum)

BUT WAIT...THERE'S MORE!

Free/discounted tickets to Festival du Voyageur's public program (February 13-22, 2026)

Students registered for the **on-site programs in Parc du Voyageur** receive access to a free day ticket for any of the weekend days of the Festival. Each free student ticket comes with a 50% rebate for one accompanying adult!

Tickets must be redeemed online prior to your arrival at Parc du Voyageur. An access code and instructions on how to redeem the tickets will be provided once payment for your activities is made. Please forward the access code to parents/guardians.



ON-SITE PROGRAMS IN PARC DU VOYAGEUR

LUNCH CONCERTS

A lunch concert is included in every student's experience at Parc du Voyageur. These concerts take place in different venues, and seating is provided on a first come, first served basis. You can also throw down some blankets and have your lunch, picnic style! You and your group are **strongly encouraged to eat your lunch** during this time slot as there may not be room or time anywhere else in your day to do so! All concerts are **35 minutes long**.

Concert Jeunes Voyageurs! – Grades 1-4

Enjoy this interactive concert that features French-Canadian songs and dances.

Concert Party de cuisine! – Grades 1-8

Come on down and cut-a-rug (or some woodchips) with this concert featuring traditional songs, stories, and good times.

Concert Le Gros Show! – Grades 1-12

Live the Festival du Voyageur experience in our premier venue, Tente Rivière-Rouge, by dancing and singing along to a real Festival headliner.



SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

You can choose up to two (2) scheduled programs to fill out your day in the park. We recommend arriving before 9:30 and plan on staying until 14:20. All programs are approximately **35 minutes** in length except for Whittier Park Sleigh Rides (15 minutes) and Maple Taffy (10 minutes).

FRANCO-CANADIAN CULTURE

Three Little Steps ► Grades: 1-5

With the enthusiastic help of the dancers from the Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge, students will learn the basics of French-Canadian styles of dance.

Swing Your Partner ► Grades: 6-12

Let the talented dancers from the Ensemble folklorique de la Rivière-Rouge whisk you away to a fun-filled French-Canadian dance party of traditional promenades and dos à dos!

The Voyageur Choir (presented by the Manitoba Choral Association) ► Grades: 2-6

Harmonize with 200 of your closest friends (or students) in this one-of-a-kind voyageur song extravaganza!





INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND HISTORY

Indigenous Storytelling ► Grades: 3-6 and 7-12

Listen to a story presented by an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper and learn about the importance of oral histories.

Co-Co Ray Stevenson and Friends ► Grades: 1-12

Expect to be entertained and to learn about traditional Indigenous songs and dances through this colourful presentation.

Indigenous Drumming Workshop ► Grades: 3-7 and 7-12

Through this interactive program, members of the Summer Bear Dance Troupe will show students the basic skills needed to drum and sing using hand drums.

The Rougarou ► Grades: 5-12

This play will engage students in the story of the Rougarou, a legendary shape-shifting Métis character that keeps children in line with spooky tales from a bygone era. This is a trilingual play, presented in French, English and Michif.

FUR TRADE AND WINTER FUN

NEW! A Voyageur's Life-an interactive presentation ► Grades 5-12

Rame en haut ! Let Jean-Guy, the voyageur, tell you about his time in the pays d'en haut. With the help of the audience and a lost festivalgoer, your class will share in the adventure of a lifetime.

*** This program is based upon the virtual program of the same name*

Festival Fur Auction ► Grades 5-12

Take on the role of a modern fur company as you learn how to grade and sort through the many furs that are bought and sold in Manitoba today, then participate in a spirited auction to acquire the pelts needed to ensure your company's success!

Bourgeois' Business ► Grades: 5-12

Actively participate in a meeting of Nor'Westers as they wrestle with the major issues facing the fur trade in the early 1800s.

La poo di bufloo! (presented by CDEM) ► Grades: 7-12

A unique, interactive workshop in costume! Students will have to overcome various challenges, answer rapid-fire questions, and simulate a portage. As well as having fun and learning about the voyageurs and entrepreneurship in 1815, they'll also learn some Cree, Michif, and French vocabulary.



Sleigh Rides ► Grades: 1-12

Enjoy a winter tradition in Parc du Voyageur as your students are whisked along a snowy trail on the banks of the Red River on a hay ride pulled by two powerful draught horses.

Maple Taffy ► Grades: 1-12

Taste the flavour of the Festival and reserve your spot to get that gooey-goodness directly from the good folks from St-Pierre-Jolys in the Cabane à sucre (maple taffy will be provided for students only, taffy for teachers or other adults may be purchased on-site).



SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES IN PARC DU VOYAGEUR

GET READY FOR A FUN FILLED DAY!

You do not need to book these activities, just show up and enjoy! **Arrive early, self-guided activities are open for students from 9h00-15h00.**



Winter Playground

There's always lots to do in the Winter Playground. Slide on tubes! Build a Red River cart from big blue blocks! Compete against your friends at boot hockey! Warm up by the fire! "Trap" the best furs at *Jeu du commis*! And more!

Maple Sugaring Camp

Have you ever wondered how maple sap turns into sugar? Check out our sugaring camp, featuring old and new methods of sugaring, plus a display about the Anishinaabe oral history of Ininaatig, the maple tree.

Cabane à sucre

This warm-up tent will be available all day long and filled with volunteer-led activities, crafts, a colouring station, a selfie-station, and more! Please note: Entry into Cabane à sucre **does not include maple taffy**! For that, you must book the maple taffy activity (on p. 6).

Fort Gibraltar

Explore the Fort! You can download a guide from our website or scan the QR code once you enter. Please limit your **visit to a maximum of 45 minutes**. Remember to ask lots of questions and have fun.

L'Shed à Léo (The Festival du Voyageur Museum)

Discover the history of Festival in this mini-museum.

Winter Trading Camp

Check out a variety of land-based Indigenous teachings at the tipis.

Concours des meilleurs

Do you have what it takes to be a voyageur? Take part in a round of friendly games in the heart of Parc du Voyageur and test your mettle against your friends (and foes)!



REGISTRATION MADE EASY!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

3 easy steps:

- Pick your lunch concert
- Pick up to 2 scheduled programs (see p. 4-6 for descriptions).
- Fill out all fields as required on the registration form. Please note that forms received before 8 a.m. on October 15, 2025 will not be accepted.

[Click the link to see the registration form](#)

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

- There are many activities for you to enjoy in the park. To maximise your time, we strongly recommend **arriving before 9:30 and leaving after 14:20**.
- The ratio of students to **accompanying adults is 10:1**. If you plan on bringing additional adults, the charge will be \$14.00 per adult.
- **For example**, if you bring 35 students and 4 adults, 3 adults would not be charged, and one would need to pay an additional fee. EAs always get in for free.
- Space is at a premium in the park. Please note that if you are booking for multiple classes, **you may not all get into the same programs and at the same time**. But rest assured, everyone will still have a great day!
- What are your students' **accessibility needs**? Parc du Voyageur is a busy place with lots of stimulation and we want to ensure a safe and pleasant visit for every student. If your student(s) need a place to be changed or fed, to rest from over-stimulation, or if they are in walkers or wheelchairs, please let us know in the comment section of the registration form.
- Festival du Voyageur is an **outdoor winter event**. Please ensure that your students, teachers, EAs, and parent volunteers are dressed appropriately for the weather. We do not cancel programs or issue refunds in the event of cold weather.
- **Cancellation Policy**. Festival du Voyageur is a winter event that will operate even in extreme weather conditions. Cancellations or changes to your itinerary may be made until January 23, 2026. No changes or cancellations may be made following that date. In the event of extreme cold, outdoor programs may be moved or shortened without prior notice. Please consult the full cancellation policy online:

heho.ca/school-program



IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR CRAFT KITS

Crafting a Herd: Bison Masks ► Grades: 1-4

Inspire your students to become a bison! Your students will make their own bison masks and learn about the importance of this mighty beast to both fur traders and Plains Indigenous peoples.

Woven In Time: Sash-Weaving ► Grades: 5-12

By learning a simple finger weaving technique, students will explore the historic uses of the *ceinture fléchée* and gain an appreciation for this enduring symbol of French and Métis culture.

Métis Beadwork: A Manitoba Tradition* ► Grades: 7-12

Explore a beautiful local art form by making a beaded patch using a pattern gifted by Métis beadworker, Jennine Krauchi.

*We strongly recommend breaking up beadwork sessions over a couple of days. Beadwork can be very frustrating for those who have never sewn before, and we want your students to finish their projects and be satisfied with their work!

Voyageur Pastimes: 9 Men's Morris ► Grades: 3-8

Discover an ancient game played by Egyptians and voyageurs alike! Using the power of math, make your own 9 Men's Morris set and learn about the importance of play in the fur trade and beyond.

COST PER STUDENT: \$6.00

Let us know how many individual kits you need (**minimum of 10 kits per order**) and we'll provide the rest! These kits will be distributed from **January 12 until February 6, 2026**. You can arrange to pick up the craft kits at our office at 233 Provencher Boulevard. If you are unable to pick them up, the kits will be sent via Canada Post and additional postage fees will apply. [Link to the form](#)

Each craft order contains the following:

- The requested amount of craft kits
- An activity e-booklet with 3 preparation activities and 3 reflection activities
- An instructional video or an instruction booklet led by an expert in their craft

A password protected link (and specific password for your activity) to our bilingual online portal containing the videos, activity booklets, and supplementary materials will be sent to the organizing teacher upon payment.

A note about the Bonhomme Gigueurs

For many years the school program has presented Bonhomme Gigueurs as a craft activity for students at Parc du Voyageur and in the classroom. Unfortunately, this activity will not be offered in 2026. Currently, our team is working to find ways to continue to produce these crafts locally so that they remain affordable and accessible to students and educators interested in learning about our shared heritage. Merci!

FORT GIBRALTAR LIVE! VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Explore the fort's history by meeting some of its residents as they show you their work and tell you about fur trade life in 1815. These presentations are live and will be followed by a question period. These sessions must be reserved in advance, and each program will be available in both languages on one day only. Please note that multiple schools will be able to attend the same presentation, just like in Parc du Voyageur!

A Voyageur's Life | February 9, 2026 ► Grades: 3-12

In this virtual presentation, your students will learn about the social lives of voyageurs, what they hope to get out of working for the North-West Company, and more.

Times:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| ▪ 9h15 – English | ▪ 13h15 – French | Length: 40 minutes (30-minute presentation, followed by a 10-minute question period) |
| ▪ 10h15 – French | ▪ 14h15 – English | |
| ▪ 11h15 – English | | |

Kinship Ties and the Fur Trade | February 10, 2026 ► Grades: 3-12

At the heart of the fur trade is the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Euro-Canadian communities. Students will learn from both perspectives of the fur trading equation, supply and demand for furs, trade goods and provisions.

Times:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| ▪ 9h15 – English | ▪ 13h15 – French | Length: 40 minutes (30-minute presentation, followed by a 10-minute question period) |
| ▪ 10h15 – French | ▪ 14h15 – English | |
| ▪ 11h15 – English | | |

COST PER CLASS

FORT GIBRALTAR LIVE!

Presentations can be booked at a cost of \$100 per class (max 30 participants); other classes from the same school may participate in **the same presentation** for an additional \$50 per class. Register here to book your Fort Gibraltar Live! Virtual Program: [Link to the form](#)

Presentations will include:

- A secure Zoom link
- An activity e-booklet with 3 preparation activities and 3 reflection activities

A password protected link to our bilingual online portal containing the activity booklets and supplementary materials will be sent to the organizing teacher upon payment.



ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC PROGRAM (PARC DU VOYAGEUR ONLY!)

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Did you know... you can buy tickets to the Thursday night programming for your class at a lower cost? We recognize that any teachers (especially those coming in from out of town) might want to immerse their students in a fun-filled evening of music played by up-and-coming young musicians.

If you're interested in bringing your students for the Thursday evening programming, please email Lynette Buchanan at: lbuchanan@heho.ca and she will be happy to help you!

Please note that the Thursday night programming is like any other public event.

- There could be line-ups, other festivalgoers, and alcohol on the premise so take that into account when booking these tickets for your classes.
- We strongly recommend the evening programming for high school students only, as the little ones might get easily overwhelmed.
- This offer is for schools only.
- School programs are NOT available during the evening.



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR MERCHANDISE

Looking for Festival du Voyageur merchandise for your class? Send an email to info@heho.ca to receive our order form (available for schools only).



Questions ?

Please contact us at :

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molivier@heho.ca

