

ORGANIZED GROUP PLANIFICATION GUIDE



McGill

RÉSERVE NATURELLE
GAULT
NATURE RESERVE



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Welcome to the Gault Nature Reserve!

A visit to the Gault Nature Reserve is a fantastic opportunity to introduce children and young adults to the wonders of the great outdoors through activities that get them moving and learning! Your group will be welcomed by a member of our team with a brief presentation on the Reserve and the rules you'll need to follow for a safe visit.

Activities

- **Hiking:** 25 km of hiking trails.
- **Four peaks:** Visit to all four mountain peaks.
- **Cross-country skiing:** 10 km of ski trails. Skiers must bring their own equipment. Additional fees are charged on site for cross-country skiing.
- **Discover the Reserve's natural history:** Follow our [self-guided tour](#) of the purple trail or learn more about the biodiversity of Mont Saint-Hilaire on [our website](#).

Rates, reservations, and payment

Day rates

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL	HIGHER EDUCATION (outside of McGill University)	ADULT ORGANIZED GROUPS
20 to 30	\$57	\$115	\$191
31 to 40	\$88	\$178	\$296
41 to 50	\$116	\$235	\$392
51 to 60	\$144	\$292	\$487
61 to 70	\$173	\$350	\$583
71 to 80	\$201	\$407	\$678

Taxes included

Important:

1. These rates apply only to groups accessing the Reserve **by bus** at the main entrance located at [422, chemin des Moulins](#).
2. Primary school and high school groups must comply to a supervising ratio of **one adult per 10 students**. The group must be subdivided in sub-groups of 10 participants.
3. A daily quota of 80 students on site from elementary school and high school applies.
4. A daily quota of 80 participants on site from other organized groups and higher education applies.

Reservations

To reserve, you must fill out our availability form at least **two (2) weeks before the event**:

- Reservation form for [school groups](#)
- Reservation form for [groups of adults \(fitness, walking clubs, etc.\)](#)

We will review your request and email you a response within 48 business hours. Questions?

Email info.gault@mcgill.ca.

Payment

Once your reservation has been confirmed, you will receive an invoice payable upon receipt. You will need to pay online by credit card. Your group will be booked only after the payment is received.

Plan for your visit

Trail map

Do not forget to download the [trail map](#).

Clothing and footwear

- Before you leave, check **trail conditions** on our [website](#).
- Wear **long pants** to prevent tick and other insect bites.
- We recommend wearing **hiking boots**. Trails may have mud and puddles. Remember that in the springtime snow stays longer on the mountain than in the city.
- We strongly recommend using crampons when the trails are icy.

Note that we do not have lockers or changing rooms on site.

Rules

Some activities are incompatible with our goal of protecting the ecological integrity of the Reserve so that it can be appreciated by future generations. Please **read the rules listed on page 8 and ensure that they are followed during your visit.**

In case of emergency

IMPORTANT

Some areas of the Reserve have poor cell service or no cell service.

- Make sure you have a **first aid kit** for your group; you are responsible for preventing injuries.
- **In case of emergency, dial 911 or 514-398-3000** (McGill security dept.)
- If you need help in an emergency, describe your location as accurately as possible and **stay put until help arrives.**

Facilities

Gathering area and picnic area locations

Gathering and picnic areas can be found at the following locations:

- Main trail entrance
- Behind the Alice Johannsen Welcome Centre
- On the shore of Lac Hertel

Alice Johannsen Welcome Centre

You can leave lunchboxes inside, just ask the attendant. The Welcome Centre also offers the following services:

- **Water fountains** inside and outside. *Please note that single-use water bottles are no longer sold at the Welcome Centre.*
- Snacks available for purchase: energy bars, chocolate, juice, etc.
- A variety of **local products** are also available: maple syrup, jams, honey, etc.

Bathrooms

Bathrooms are located at the **Welcome Centre** and at the **cottage** located at the picnic area of Lac Hertel.

People with limited mobility

You can request a **special parking permit**. Ask for it when you make your reservation. The bathrooms at the Welcome Centre and the cottage are wheelchair accessible.

General conditions for groups – Organizer agreement

1. The maximum daily number of participants per elementary school or high school group is 80 students.
2. The maximum daily number of participants for other organized groups is 80 participants.
3. **One (1) chaperone is required per 10 students** for elementary school and high school groups.
4. All groups must be sub-divided in groups of 10.
 - For safety reasons and to maintain order, you must meet the minimum number of chaperones. Otherwise, some of your activities may have to be changed or cancelled.
 - When on the trails, you must travel in groups of 10 and leave a gap between each group.
5. The group must enter the Reserve **by bus through the main entrance at 422 chemin des Moulins**.
6. As a chaperone, you agree to **enforce the rules and regulations of the Gault Nature Reserve**.
 - Group leaders and chaperones must supervise participants **AT ALL TIMES** and ensure they are taking part in the activities. Chaperones **responsible for the actions of the participants**. We expect chaperones to keep the group together, maintain order and direct group work.
 - Please note that we keep a record of groups that visit the Gault Nature Reserve, and failure to comply with this policy may result in the Gault Nature Reserve refusing you entry on subsequent visits.
7. Activities will still take place in the event of rain. If you decide to cancel your activity, you must contact us as soon as possible to reschedule. **No refunds.**

Rules

General rules



People visit the Reserve to relax. Please keep noise to a minimum or wear earphones.



Smoke-free environment.



Pets are not allowed.

Trail etiquette



Stay on the trails!

You must remain on the marked trails to avoid compacting the soil, trampling rare plants, and widening the trails.

Hiker code of conduct

Hikers coming uphill have the right of way. Keep right, pass left. Before passing, announce your intention clearly and politely, so that others have time to react.

Please help preserve wildlife and flora



Don't be a litterbug! Dispose of garbage and recyclables in the containers provided. There are garbage and recycling bins at the main entrance, the Welcome Centre, and the lake. Leave no trace of your visit.



Do not feed, disturb, trap or hunt animals.



Help preserve the flora and reduce your environmental impact: stay on marked trails to keep from trampling the plants.



Leave what you find! Resist the temptation to take souvenirs. Flowers and mushroom, and other natural elements belong in their natural environment, not your home.

Prohibited activities



No climbing, orienteering, horseback riding, hand-gliding or sliding.



No swimming, sailing or fishing in Lac Hertel



No biking.



No operating a drone or other remotely operated devices.



No BBQs or campfires.

For more information, we encourage you to explore our [website](#) or to contact us: info.gault@mcgill.ca