

## METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS FIELD TRIPS

# Beach Etiquette

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*While visiting the beach please take the opportunity to teach your group how to respect and care for the natural spaces. Beaches are home to a myriad of creatures from tiny plankton to giant sea stars. Make your visit a positive experience for all living things! If we care for and protect our beaches, they will be ours to enjoy for many years.*

- **Walk carefully.** Avoid crushing barnacles, mussels and other small creatures.
- **Beach creatures breathe water!** Observe creatures where you find them. If you pick them up, only hold them for as long as you can hold your breath. Never pick more than one up at a time.
- **Be gentle.** Many beach creatures are fragile. Handle them gently and put them back where you found them as soon as you are finished.
- **If it's attached to something, leave it!** Some beach creatures, like mussels and limpets, stay alive by anchoring themselves to rocks and other hard places. If you pick them off they may not be able to attach themselves again.
- **Leave everything the way you found it.** If you look under logs or stones, gently put them back in place. They provide homes and hiding places for beach creatures. Fill in any holes that you dig.
- **Do not take anything home from the beach!** All things found on the beach, living or dead, have a role to play. Leave only footprints and take only memories.

*We hope your group has a memorable and enlightening experience in Regional Parks, and we look forward to seeing you again.*