



## Tips for Groups Visiting Skills Canada – Ontario’s Ontario Technological Skills Competition

*Each year over 20,000 students, teachers, parents and members of the general public come to RIM Park to observe the Ontario Technological Skills Competition. With such a crowd converging on one venue over a short two-day period, it is helpful to plan your trip with this mass of people in mind. We hope the tips listed below assist you in planning a fun and valuable class trip for your students, while keeping everyone safe and happy.*

- All bus drop-off and pick-up will happen on University Avenue East coming up to RIM Park.
- Make a brightly coloured sign clearly identifying your group to put in the bus window – this will make it easier for you and your students to pick your bus out of the line of identical school buses.
- Exchange cell phone numbers with your bus driver – this may help you connect when it’s time to board the bus.
- Arrange a meeting place and time with your students prior to arriving at RIM Park, ie. at the Home and Team Building Tent. **Please note: there is no PA system that can be used to page students.**
  - The designated “lost and found” persons area is the space located between the 4 Ice Pads, inside the main door (near the elevator). Our staff will direct any lost people or people looking for lost people to this area.
- Instruct your students to use the buddy-system. When exploring the event, no student should be left to tour alone.
- Review the floor plan, ahead of time, with your students. They will benefit from being familiar with the layout of the venue.
  - Print copies of the floor plan for your students, with your meeting place (and perhaps your cell phone number) clearly marked on them.
  - First Aid Stations are marked on the floor plan – point this out to your students, in case of an emergency.
  - Designate a location that you will stop at throughout the day, where your students can find you if they need to – make this location clear to your students, ie. the seating area in Ice Pad #1 (behind the Baking and Culinary Arts contest areas).
- Instruct your students to dress for the weather, as some contests take place outside.
- Pack a lunch or a lot of patience – the concession lines can be very long, especially at peak lunch hour times.
- Plan an activity for your students to complete throughout the day. There is a Scavenger Hunt Activity posted on our website that you are welcome to use.