



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Padre Island National Seashore  
P. O. Box 181300  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480-1300



Dear Teachers, Parents, and Students,

Soon you, or perhaps a family member, will be visiting and enjoying Padre Island National Seashore. In order to ensure that the visit is both safe and pleasant it is important to recognize the risks that accompany any outdoor activity. With proper knowledge and appropriate clothing the hazards can be minimized.

Since many of our school visitors are too young to understand the dangers it is important to remind them of several considerations before they arrive in the park. Even teachers/chaperones are often unaware of the various safety concerns; therefore **it is advised that each adult participant as well as parents of student visitors receive a copy of this information.**

## SAFETY CONCERNS

- There are **NO** lifeguards! Be sure all participants understand that entering the water without adult supervision is not advised. The currents vary in strength but can be quite strong. A swim/no swim policy should be established and articulated to participants prior to arrival.
- The greatest hazard is the sun. Be sure to bring sun block and **USE IT**. Remember that sunblock will cause a burning sensation if it gets in a child's eyes. Assistance with sunblock application may be necessary for younger students. For additional sun protection also bring hats, sunglasses, and drink plenty of water.
- Depending on the wind and currents there may be jellyfish in the water or washed ashore. Remind students that even dead ones can sting if touched. If you're unsure what it is don't touch it! Check with a park ranger to see if unusually high numbers of jellyfish have recently been reported.
- Beachcombers should watch for hazardous materials on the beach. Examples are items such as light bulbs, medical waste (i.e. syringes, pill bottles, needles, etc), and closed bottles, cans, or barrels that might contain dangerous materials. Do not touch or otherwise attempt to remove these type hazards. Inform park staff so that the items may be properly disposed of.
- Stay off of the sand dunes. The grasses can easily hide either of the two species of rattlesnakes that inhabit the island. Dune vegetation is also fragile and easily uprooted by visitors. The vegetation serves a vital role in protecting the beach from erosion.
- Please inform the park ranger if any participants have any known allergies to insect stings. The ranger will have a radio to assist with any emergencies.

