

2017 Public Fossil Digs

We are excited to announce another year of public fossil digs, which provide opportunities for people to join us in the field to help discover North Dakota's past. Budget constraints have resulted in cutbacks to the number of public fossil digs we will offer in the summer of 2017, but there are still three exciting locations from which to choose. All fossil digs are free, though a fully refundable deposit of \$10 per person is required to hold your spot. A quick note, while dinosaurs may be the first thing that comes to mind when you think "fossil dig," most of our digs are not dinosaur oriented. Only the Bismarck Area dig may contain dinosaurs. For more information on these digs please visit <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/digs/>.

Dickinson Area, June 26-30: This dig focuses on 30- to 40-million-year-old mammal sites and involves prospecting for new fossils, so bring your hiking boots. We meet in Bismarck each day, then caravan to the site south of Dickinson. Alternatively, if you are already in the Dickinson area, you can meet us there. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have spaces for people back in our paleontology lab in Bismarck to work on fossil preparation and cleaning. Maximum of 10 participants per day. Minimum age is 12 years; participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. You must provide your own transportation, food, and lodging (if needed), but all tools for the day will be provided.



Medora, July 13-16: After non-avian dinosaurs went extinct, crocodiles became the dominant predator in North Dakota, and the environment turned swampy. In Medora, we will be digging in Sentinel Butte Formation rocks, 55-60 million years old. This North

Dakota everglades environment includes a variety of swamp denizens, including crocodiles, champsosaurs, giant salamanders, fish, clams, snails, birds, mammals, and more. The rugged badlands in the nearby Theodore Roosevelt National Park may also be a draw for those not interested in digging in the dirt. You will be staying in one spot working at an established fossil quarry. Maximum of 14 participants per day. Minimum age is 12 years; participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. There will also be a family dig day on July 15th when children 10 and older can attend. Family day is divided into a morning and an afternoon session, so you can sign up for which ever best fits your schedule, or both if you would like to join us all day. Transportation from and to Medora will be provided. You must provide your own water and lunches. A shade tent, port-a-potty, and all tools needed for the day will be provided.



Bismarck Area, July 24-28: We will be working at a handful of sites on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River that preserve a plethora of Hell Creek creatures. Teeth from *Tyrannosaurus*, bones from *Triceratops* and *Edmontosaurus*, plus crocodiles and other creatures abound. This experience will include a combination of hiking around to discover new fossils and sitting and working to excavate at known sites depending on how the week goes. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have spaces for people back in our paleontology lab in Bismarck to work on fossil preparation and cleaning. Maximum of 10 participants per day. Minimum age is 12 years; participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. You must provide your own transportation, food, and lodging (if needed), but all tools for the day will be provided.

