

2019 Public Fossil Digs

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Medora

Full Days: June 18-20; 24-28

Family Half Days: June 22, 23, 29 (AM & PM),
June 30 (AM only)

-This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. After 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 site is rich in a variety of swamp

denizens, including crocodiles, giant salamanders, fish, champsosaurs, clams, snails, 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.



Bismarck Area

July 8-13; 15-20; 22-25; 2-day session for Experienced Diggers July 26-27

-We will be working on a site that preserves a plethora of Hell Creek (67 million-year-old) creatures. Teeth from *Tyrannosaurus*, bones from *Triceratops* and *Edmontosaurus*, plus crocodiles and other creatures abound. This experience will include working at an established quarry site, within easy walking distance of our vehicles.



Pembina Gorge

Full Days: July 31, August 1, 2, 4, 5

Half Days: August 3 (AM & PM), August 6 (AM only)

-This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, and Walhalla Economic Development. We will be returning once again to the beautifully scenic Pembina Gorge in our ongoing search for sea monsters. This Pierre Formation location, 80 million years old, holds some of the oldest surface rocks in North Dakota. This was a time when North Dakota was covered with the Western Interior Seaway, and was home to great swimming reptiles called mosasaurs, as well as giant squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, large (and small) fish, snails, clams, and more.



Dickinson Area

August 12-16; 19-21

-We say "area" because we will be starting and ending the day in Bismarck, but traveling to sites near Dickinson. Depending on the weather, and the concentration of fossils at different locations, our destinations may shift. We will be focusing on a 30-40 million year old mammal site (saber-toothed cats, rhinos, tortoises, tiny deer, and horses, etc.).

For more details regarding our public fossil digs, please refer to our website at <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/digs/>

