

2020 Public Fossil Digs

Jeff J. Person

Medora

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.

When: Full Days: June 18, 23-26 Family Half Days: June 19, 20, 21 (AM & PM)

Adult Half Days: June 27 (AM & PM), June 28 (AM only)

Where: Near Medora, Billings County. Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from Medora.

Full Day - \$25 (minimum age 15) Half-Day - \$15 (minimum age 10 for Family Days)



Bismarck

We will be working on a site that preserves a plethora of Hell Creek Formation (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.

When: Full Days: July 6-9, 13-16, 20-23, 27-29

2-day session for Experienced Diggers July 30-31 Family Half-Days: July 10, 17, 24

Where: South of Bismarck-Mandan, ND. Daily trips to the fossil sites will originate from Bismarck, where we will meet at the Heritage Center. If we are unable to dig due to poor weather conditions, we will work in the Paleontology lab in Bismarck. Because this site is on private land, diggers will be driven to the site in a passenger van. No personal vehicles please.

Full Day - \$25 (minimum age 15) Half-Day - \$15 (minimum age 10)



Pembina

This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey, and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. 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, giant squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, large (and small) fish, snails, clams, and more. This year, the Pembina dig will NOT include a souvenir or breakfast. Lunch is included at this dig. This dig has a higher cost due to its remote location and provided lunch.

When: Full Days: August 7, 9-14 Family Half Days: August 8, 15 (AM & PM)

Adult Half Days: August 16 (AM)

Where: Near Walhalla, Cavalier County

Full Day - \$60 (minimum age 15) Half-Day - \$30 (minimum age 10 for Family Half Day)



Registration for all digs: Saturday February 1st, 10am central.ndgdsdigs.eventbrite.com