

2023 PUBLIC FOSSIL DIGS

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ALL DIGS (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!):
 Opens Saturday, February 4 at 10am Central @ www.ndpaleofriends.org

MEDORA

This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.

After the non-avian dinosaurs went extinct, crocodiles became the dominant predator in North Dakota, and the environment was warm, humid, and swampy.

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 15, 20, 31

FAMILY HALF-DAYS:

June 16, 17, 18 (AM & PM Sessions)

NEW! EXPERIENCED DIGGER

2-DAY SITE CLOSING:

June 22-23

WHERE:

Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from Medora, ND.

COST:

Full Day: \$40 / Day

Family Half-Day: \$30 / Day

Experienced Digger 2-Day: \$70



DICKINSON

After a many-year hiatus, we will be returning to the scenic Little Badlands of North Dakota.

This Oligocene locality is ~32-30 million years old.

Of all the sites across North Dakota, this particular one holds the most mammals, and boasts the beginnings of many mammal groups still seen today. Hornless rhinos, three-toes horses, camels, entelodonts, nimravids, rodents, bats, eagles, toads, tortoises, alligators, and more.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a PROSPECTING site, not a quarry site - participants will need to be in good enough physical condition to hike in moderate to rugged terrain, and carry all of their supplies with them for the day. This site is not suitable for young children - only Full Days (15+ years) will be available. There are NO porta-potties and NO shade tents at this area.

WHEN:

FULL DAYS:

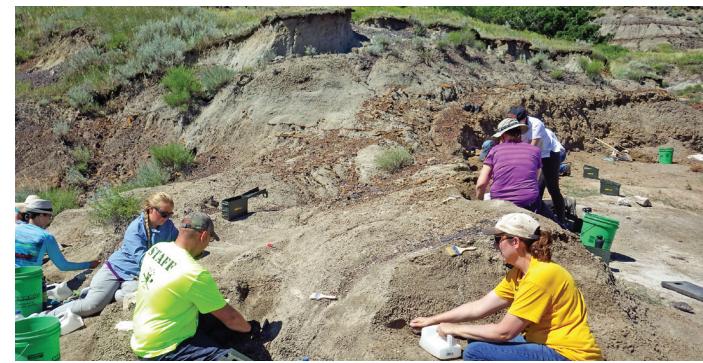
June 26-30

WHERE:

Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from the Dickinson Museum Center each morning.

COST:

Full Day: \$40



BISMARCK

We will be working on a site that preserves a plethora of Hell Creek Formation (67 million-year-old) creatures, including lots of dinosaur bones.

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.

Please read the Bismarck Area FAQ for more details.

WHEN:

FULL DAYS:

July 10-13, 19-20, 25-27, 31,

August 1-2

FAMILY HALF-DAYS:

July 14, 21, 28 (AM Sessions Only)

July 17, 24 (AM & PM Sessions)

EXPERIENCED DIGGER

2-DAY SITE CLOSING:

August 3-4

WHERE:

Daily trips to the fossil sites will originate from Bismarck, where we will meet at the Heritage Center.

COST:

Full Day: \$60 / Day

Family Half-Day: \$40 / Day

Experienced Digger 2-Day: \$120

GENERAL DIG INFORMATION

- All fossils collected on these digs go to the North Dakota State Fossil Collection and are used for educational and research purposes.
- At all four dig locations, participants must bring their own lunches.
- Shade tents and porta-potties will be available on site EXCEPT at the Dickinson dig location.
- The Experienced Digger 2-Day Site Closing Sessions may finish early on the 2nd day.
- Our digs have a minimum age of 15 years for a Full Day and 10 years for a Family Half-Day. No digs for children under 10 years.
- NO PERSONAL VEHICLES - All participants will be transported by van from the meeting site to the dig site.

Please go to www.dmr.nd.gov/dmr/paleontology/fossil-digs for more information and additional rules for participants.

More information on early registration opportunities is available at www.ndpaleofriends.org

PEMBINA

This dig is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey (NDGS) 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 by 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.

WHEN:

FULL DAYS:

August 14-18

FAMILY HALF-DAYS:

August 11-13 (AM & PM Sessions)

NEW! EXPERIENCED DIGGER

2-DAY SITE CLOSING:

August 19-20

WHERE:

Daily trips to the fossil site will originate from Walhalla, ND.

COST:

Full Day: \$40 / Day

Family Half-Day: \$30 / Day

Experienced Digger 2-Day: \$70

