If you’re tired of sitting in an armchair, reading about the adventures of others and you’re ready to get your hands dirty, the Morrison Natural History Museum Field Paleontology Program is for you. We have partnered with the Glenrock Palenon Museum in Glenrock, Wyoming to offer the fossil expedition experience of a lifetime.

Spend two to five days working with museum crews as they explore fossil sites of the Upper Cretaceous beds of Wyoming. We will collect at fossil microsites containing dinosaur teeth, turtles and crocodylians, which will help us to better understand the life of Late Cretaceous Wyoming. Help excavate the skeleton of a large ceratopsian. Learn mapping and jacketing techniques. Assist in prospecting for new fossil sites, and maybe, make a huge discovery of your own.

2020 PALEONTOLOGY FIELD PROGRAMS

About the Paleontology Field Program

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The fossils you recover will be curated in the permanent collection of the Glenrock Paleon Museum. As you unearth fossils, your efforts will be documented with photos and your name permanently attached to your find in the Paleon’s collection. We will get you to the dig sites, provide you with excavation equipment and a hearty field-lunch, and provide instruction and guidance every step of the way. The rest of the experience is up to you.

Participants must be at least fourteen years old, of good health, and physically able to endure the various weather and temperatures conditions of the Wyoming wilderness. The nature of fossil collection and excavation requires participants to be physically independent, with the ability to sit, kneel, crouch, and lay on the ground for extended periods of time in outdoor conditions. The activity will also include standing and walking for extended periods of time in outdoor conditions.

Is This Dig Right For Me?

In the field, romance of expedition quickly turns to the reality of excavation. It will be hot. There will be no shade. It will be windy, and grit will stick to your sweaty skin. You will suffer for your science. But, you will also contribute to paleontology by making your own discoveries and placing them in a public collection for all to marvel.

*Have you participated in a past dig with us? If the answer is no, then the Novice skill level is most appropriate.*

**NOVICE** - these digs are an introduction to fieldwork with a special focus on our field area. Not only are basic concepts covered, but materials and methods best suited for our field area are demonstrated and mastered by participants.

**INTERMEDIATE** - participation and mastery of our Novice programs is mandatory. Excavation will take place at more challenging sites that require excavation experience.

**ADVANCED** - participation and mastery of both Novice and Intermediate programs is mandatory. Challenging excavation at sensitive or difficult sites will take place. Group prospecting for new sites will require experience gained from past programs, but a high degree of physical stamina.
Attire

Paleontologists will secretly admit that they pursued this career for one reason: the fashion. Play dress-up with safety and comfort in mind. Western weather is unpredictable, and temperatures can swing from hot to cold quickly. Dressing in layers, including a jacket, will ensure your comfort. Since Wyoming wind makes shade structures short-lived, you must create your own shade with your attire.

Wear loose-fitting long sleeves and pants. A broad-brimmed hat is a must. Broken-in leather boots are vital; high-top boots are best to keep your ankles supported. A bandana, buff, sunglasses, and a value-jug of sunblock will increase your comfort.

Children

A dedicated parent/guardian must be enrolled in the program and aware of the minor’s needs and behavior at all times. If your teen is able to unplug from a screen and focus on repetitive tasks for an extended period of time, this program will suit your child well.

Transportation

The program takes place in central Wyoming, with the Town of Glenrock as our base. Transportation to Glenrock is the responsibility of the participant.

Some dig sites are accessible by two-wheel drive vehicles. Sites that require a four-wheel drive access will be provided by museum staff. Should participants desire to use their own vehicles, please fill out the transportation release form attached to this message.
Lodging

Lodging is the responsibility of the participant, and is not included in enrollment fees. Glenrock hosts two lodging venues and a campground. Nearby Douglas, Wyoming offers more variety in lodging.

Food

Lunch is provided at the dig site. While we recognize that you're attending for the fossils not the food, we will provide a variety of sandwich fixings and sides. If you require a specific diet or have food allergies or sensitivities you may have to provide your own food.

Tuition for the five-day program is $1000 per person. The two-day program is $400 per person. A non-refundable deposit of $80 per person for the two-day program or $200 per person for the five-day program will be required upon the approval of the registration paperwork.

Full payment is due four weeks before the start date of the program. Cancellation up to six weeks in advance of the start date will result in full refund sans 20% deposit. Reservations may be transferred for an additional deposit.

Should the program be cancelled, participants will be refunded in full, including the deposit. Programs will be cancelled no less than four weeks prior to the start date.
Ready to Sign Up?

Step 1. Choose Your Dig:

Two Day Digs - $400 per person
• Intermediate - July 11th & 12th
• Advanced - July 18th & 19th
• Intermediate - August 8th & 9th
• Novice - August 15th & 16th

Three Day Digs - $600 per person
• Novice - June 27th to 29th
• Novice - July 25th to 27th
• Novice - August 22nd to 24th

Five Day Digs - $1000 per person
• Advanced - July 13th to 17th
• Advanced - August 10th to 14th

Step 2. Complete Registration Paperwork

Attached to this message you will find some paperwork to fill out. Please print it out read it carefully. Once completed, email it back to director@mnhm.org at least four weeks before the start of your program. Questions can be directed to the same email address.

Because of the strenuous nature of field work, Morrison Natural History Museum reserves the right to deny participation.
Thank you for expressing interest in the Field Paleontology Program hosted by the Morrison Natural History Museum and Glenrock Paleon Museum!

Questions? Contact Matthew Mossbrucker!

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