



# TRICERATOPS GULCH PROJECT

## Program Information

### SECTION I

#### Setting Expectations

**In the field, the 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.**

#### *TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE*

- *Listen*
  - To directions given by staff
  - To the suggestions made to enhance your experience
- *Use Resources*
  - e.g. demonstration fossils on meeting table
  - Take notes and photos!
- *Communicate*
  - Ask questions!
  - Ask for clarification.
  - Advocate for yourself
- *Embrace the conditions*
  - Wyoming weather is unpredictable!
  - Anticipate heat and cold - on the same day.
- *Give yourself grace*
  - Bucketlisters and novice diggers can have high expectations of themselves. Relax, communicate, and enjoy yourself.



## SECTION II

### Personal Gear

You are welcome to bring along your personal tools, but it is not necessary. All equipment is provided.

**Dress appropriately.** Loose-fitting, long pants and sleeves are best. Broken-in boots and moisture-wicking socks are a must. If you try to wear sandals or flip-flops we will rename you Rattlesnake McSnakebite and laugh at you when you get sharp things in your feet.

A broad-brimmed hat, bandanna, and gloves are essential, as are fresh clothes and undergarments for each day. Don't forget your favorite insulated water bottle, sunscreen, hand-sanitizer, and at least two face masks. A light backpack, notebook and writing utensils will help you to document and maximize your experience.

As you are no doubt aware, we enter field paleontology for one reason: *fashion!* Now that you're one of us I can share the secrets.

- **Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are very important.** Bring three of each, please. Lightweight cotton or synthetic material tends to work best. Bonus points for pockets and vents. Long-sleeved shirts are suggested, as you can always roll them up while working in a quarry. Some folks prefer short-pants. I don't recommend this unless you have rhino-hide or don't mind bloody knees from crawling around on the ground. Or random scrapes from brush and sharp rocks. Or sunburn. Or insect bites. Or the casual close encounter with a Wyoming buzzworm.
- **Undergarments:** synthetic fiber works best. Anything marketed for exercise is going to be suitable. Look for anything vented. Avoid cotton.
- **Pick a field hat with a windstrap.** Straw, canvas, and nylon are okay. Felt can also work. Avoid leather and oilskin (an oil treated cotton canvas). Broader the brim, the better. The hat is not only the *piece de resistance* of your field *ensemble*, but vital in keeping you cool. You're wearing shade. Baseball caps are better than nothing, but provide no shelter for your ears and neck. Frankly, most people forget to apply sunscreen to those regions. People like me.
- **Avoid use of sunglasses.** They distort the color of the objects scattered on the ground. The signal of color can be a useful indicator of a bone outcropping from across an arroyo. Your hat will provide some shade for your eyes. If you wear contacts, bring eye drops. Untinted eyeglasses are fine. Bring an eyeglass cloth as they will get dusty every few minutes.
- **A bandana** or Buff (nylon neck gaiter) are important. Bring a couple. You can get them wet to cool your neck (amazing in the late afternoon) and the copious amounts of



dust will stay off your skin. There are no windbreaks in our area, and Wyoming is rather famous for its breeze.

- **Boots.** Lots of good brands and I have no favorite. Hightops are best. I wear all leather boots so sharp things don't jab my feet. Downside - my feet sometimes get hot. Plus side, my feet are armored and if cared for properly, the boots will last a very long time. Most importantly - and I cannot stress this enough - is that you need to break them in long before your first dig. They should be as comfortable as possible. Basically, put them on now and don't take them off. Wear them to bed. Wear them to class. Wear them swimming... don't do that, you'll drown, but you catch my drift.
- **Socks.** A medium weight poly-cotton sock is as important as your boots. Make sure they have a snug fit to avoid sagging or movement in your footgear. Try and find socks that offer a bit of padding on the heel and toes - nothing is more luxurious.
- **Jacket.** A quick-drying jacket or pullover is a must. Raingear is nice to have, but usually goes unused. Usually.
- **OTHER GEAR** - bring a daypack, notebook, pens, and water bottle. An insulated water bottle is a luxurious addition to your excavation accourtiment. Bring along pain-relieving medication, Imodium AD, and sunblock.



## SECTION III

### **Nourishment & Lodging**

While breakfast is not provided, lunch and now dinner is included. You will be provided a variety of choices to create a sack lunch and a snack. Cold drinks including water and Gatorade are also provided. You are welcome to bring additional snacks and comfort food.

**Should you have a food allergy or dietary restrictions, please detail them in your registration paperwork and remind staff ahead of time.** We will do our best to accommodate you.

Crew suppers will be held at the Classic Cafe, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The program adjourns prior to suppertime on Sunday, and the Classic is closed. A menu has been provided in the enrollment paperwork. Your selections will be forwarded to the Classic Cafe two weeks prior to your program in order to ensure your food is ready just as soon as we get to the restaurant. A “to go” option will be made available for those not hungry in the late afternoon.

### **Lodging**

The cities of Casper and Douglas are about 30 minutes away from Glenrock. Both have a variety of potential lodging options. Casper/Evansville has a greater variety of options and is a few minutes closer.

We recommend lodging in Glenrock, Wyoming if possible. so that you can take a siesta in the afternoon and for general convenience. There is one stable motel in town.

- Motel Mabuhay - phone reservations only. Can be difficult to reach. Be persistent and reach out to us for help if needed.
  - Address: 302 W Birch St, Glenrock, WY 82637 Phone: (307) 436-5468
  - Located one block away from the Paleon Museum
  - If you enroll in the June 29-31 dig program, bring earplugs. Glenrock’s annual street party “Deer Creek Days” takes place just outside of the motel.

## SECTION IV

### **Pandemic Plan**

Health and safety are a priority for our program. The nature of this experience does lend well to the practice of the basic pandemic protocols we’ve all become familiar with over the past.



All indications point to the mutating coronavirus being present in our lives moving forward. Instructors are fully vaccinated and boosted.

Masking will be required in appropriate circumstances for the protection of the younger and older participants and hopefully inhibit spread and mutation of the coronavirus. Many of those enrolled in this program are visiting from across the United States. New variations of the coronavirus are evolving and spreading regionally.

We ask you to please bring suitable face coverings into the field with you each day. Masks should be worn when in close proximity with others or in an indoor space, like the Paleon Museum. Masks should also be worn while in a quarry or riding in the pickup to the field area. A portable bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be carried with you.

If all participants are vaccinated we may relax the masking requirements.

### **Wake Up Not Feeling Well?**

Headaches and body aches could be a result of dehydration or overexertion. Make sure you are well-hydrated at all times.

Working together we can lessen the risk of exposure to the virus. Clearly we cannot guarantee no risk of exposure. By agreeing to join the program you assume some risk.

Should you exhibit any of the [symptoms of Covid-19](#) prior to your field program, please seek testing and treatment. Your experience can be rescheduled if possible or refunded. If you develop symptoms during the program, discuss the situation with me. For the health of the group, anyone exhibiting any symptoms of a respiratory viral infection at any point during the program must be excluded from the experience for everyone's safety.

It should be noted that the dust and pollen you encounter while in the field can cause cold-like symptoms. These are easily alleviated with allergy medicine, which you should consider bringing along with you.

### **Inclement Weather Plan**

Thunderstorms and extreme heat could force us to return to the Paleon early. Rarely, we are forced to spend an entire day inside the museum. Wet ground conditions in the fieldwork area not only pose a safety hazard but excavating is impossible to do responsibly.

We intend to make the most of our time, and we will switch to in-museum programming. We may explore fossil preparation, molding and casting of fossil bones, general anatomy clinics, collections management, random topical lectures, or any other related activities until the weather clears or the day ends.



## SECTION V

### ENHANCED PROGRAM ITINERARY

*The Enhanced Program balances time in the museum and fieldwork area with optional activities after supper. If you haven't dug for fossils with us, are exploring paleontology as a future career, or want a more fully-fleshed experience this program is right for you.*

*Itinerary will change depending on excavation priorities, group dynamics, and weather. Your attendance for evening programming is at your discretion.*

#### **THURSDAY - ORIENTATION DINNER**

- 5:30 p.m. - Welcome!
  - Meet at Glenrock Paleontological Museum, main entrance.
- 5:45 p.m. - **Connect With Your Crew**
  - Crew dinner at the Classic Cafe, across the street from the museum
  - Review of program itinerary and expectations
  - Introduction of program completion awards - **"The Dusties"**
- 7:00 p.m. - At roughly this time, the group will retire for the evening.

#### **FRIDAY - Welcome to Triceratops Gulch**

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - Lecture - **"Triceratops Gulch Project: Welcome to the Cretaceous."** Orientation to key concepts and terminology. Foundational background information. A discussion of our updated research and collection goals.
- 8:40 a.m. - Clinic: **"Bone vs. Stone"** - quickly learn to identify fossil bone, common rock types, and minerals.
- 9:10 - 9:30 - Load personal gear and pack lunches
- 9:30 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to Lance Frm. field area
- 9:45 a.m. - Arrival at *"Triceratops Gulch"* field area
- 9:45 a.m. - Field Safety, Introducing the magical field toilet
- 10:00 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 2:00 p.m. - Depart fieldwork area for Paleon Museum



- 2:20 p.m. - Lecture: “**Paleoecology of Bert Quarry.**” A review of the collections census, new finds, and new insight into Lanciaan paleobiology in our fieldwork area.
- 3:00 p.m. Clinic: **Small Fossils** - encounter small fossils with big implications and learn techniques for identification.
- 9:10 - 9:30 - Load gear and pack lunches
- 3:30 p.m. - Early crew dinner at Classic Cafe
- 4:30 p.m. - Optional: Return to Paleon Museum for **optional activities**
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Depart Paleon Museum/Arrival at Triceratops Gulch
- 5:15 p.m. - Option 1: **Evening Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 4:45 p.m. - Option 2: **Collections Management**
  - Organizing, identifying, and provisionally labeling specimens in Paleon Museum collection. Assisting with provisional database entry.
- Dusk - Leave fieldwork area for Paleon Museum. Program ends for the day.

### ***SATURDAY - The Lost World - Triceratops Gulch***

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - Clinic: **REVIEW** - a review of concepts and skills along with an opportunity to ask questions.
- 8:40 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to Lance Frm. field area
- 8:55 a.m. - Arrival at “*Triceratops Gulch*” field area
- 9:00 a.m. - Field Safety Briefing
- 9:10 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 2:00 p.m. - Depart fieldwork area for Paleon Museum
- 2:20 p.m. - Lecture: “**Dinosaurs.**” A talk about dinosaurs. It will be enjoyed by all.
- 3:00 p.m. - Clinic: **Fossil ID** - review fossil identification knowledge.
- 3:30 p.m. - Early crew dinner at Classic Cafe
- 4:30 p.m. - Optional: Return to Paleon Museum for **optional activities**
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Depart Paleon Museum/Arrival at Triceratops Gulch
- 5:15 p.m. - Option 1: **Evening Fieldwork**



8

- For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
- Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 4:45 p.m. - Option 2: **Collections Management**
  - Organizing, identifying, and provisionally labeling specimens in Paleon Museum collection. Assisting with provisional database entry.
- Dusk - Leave fieldwork area for Paleon Museum. Program ends for the day.

### ***SUNDAY - Triceratops Gulch World***

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - Load gear and pack lunches
- 8:40 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to fieldwork area
- 8:55 a.m. - Arrival at “*Triceratops Gulch*” fieldwork area
- 9:00 a.m. - Field Safety Briefing
- 9:10 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 2:00 p.m. - Depart fieldwork area for GPM
- 2:15 p.m. - **Fossil Roundup** - review the crew’s discoveries and discuss implications for deeper understanding.
- 2:45 p.m. - “**The Dusties**” - *major* awards given in multiple categories that celebrate discovery, endurance, and listening skills. All participants are winners. Awards are a proprietary blend of saccharin and sarcasm.
- 3:00 p.m. - Program ends.



## FIELD PROGRAM ITINERARY

*The Field Program is intended for those who have worked with us in the past and emphasizes time in the field over foundational programming. If you wish to plant yourself at a site or focus solely on prospecting, this experience is right for you.*

*Itinerary will change depending on excavation priorities, group dynamics, and weather. Your attendance for evening programming is optional.*

### **THURSDAY - ORIENTATION DINNER**

- 5:30 p.m. - Welcome back!
  - Meet at Glenrock Paleontological Museum, main entrance.
- 5:45 p.m.- **Connect With Your Crew**
  - Crew dinner at the Classic Cafe, across the street from the museum
  - Review of program itinerary and expectations
  - 7:00 p.m. - At roughly this time, the group will retire for the evening.

### **FRIDAY - Welcome Back!**

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - **Overview Briefing** - an update and discussion of priorities for the group.
- 8:30 a.m. - Skills Clinic: **“Bone vs. Stone”** - Reacquaint with fossil bone, common rock types, and minerals.
- 8:45 a.m. - Load personal gear and pack lunches
- 9:00 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to Lance Frm. field area
- 9:15 a.m. - Arrival at *“Triceratops Gulch”* field area
- 9:20 a.m. - Field Safety, Introducing the magical field toilet
- 9:30 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 2:45 p.m. - Depart field area for Paleon Museum
- 3:30 p.m. - Early crew dinner at Classic Cafe
- 4:30 p.m. - Optional: Return to Paleon Museum for **optional activities**
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Depart Paleon Museum/Arrival at Triceratops Gulch
- 5:15 p.m. - Option 1: **Evening Fieldwork**



- For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
- Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 4:45 p.m. - Option 2: **Collections Management**
  - Organizing, identifying, and provisionally labeling specimens in Paleon Museum collection. Assisting with provisional database entry.
- Dusk - Leave fieldwork area for Paleon Museum. Program ends for the day.

### ***SATURDAY***

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - **Morning Briefing** - a review of concepts and skills along with an opportunity to ask questions.
- 8:40 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to Lance Frm. field area
- 8:55 a.m. - Arrival at “*Triceratops* Gulch” field area
- 9:00 a.m. - Field Safety Briefing
- 9:10 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 2:45 p.m. - Depart field area for Paleon Museum
- 3:30 p.m. - Early crew dinner at Classic Cafe
- 4:30 p.m. - Optional: Return to Paleon Museum for **optional activities**
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Depart Paleon Museum/Arrival at Triceratops Gulch
- 5:15 p.m. - Option 1: **Evening Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 4:45 p.m. - Option 2: **Collections Management**
  - Organizing, identifying, and provisionally labeling specimens in Paleon Museum collection. Assisting with provisional database entry.
- Dusk - Leave fieldwork area for Paleon Museum. Program ends for the day.



## **SUNDAY**

- 8:00 a.m. - Doors open at Glenrock Paleontological Museum
- 8:10 a.m. - **Morning Briefing**
- 8:20 a.m. - Load gear and pack lunches
- 8:40 a.m. - Depart GPM, travel to fieldwork area
- 8:55 a.m. - Arrival at “*Triceratops* Gulch” fieldwork area
- 9:00 a.m. - Field Safety Briefing
- 9:10 a.m. - **Morning Fieldwork**
  - For those interested, prospecting (surface collection of fossils, seeking new potential sites).
  - Excavation orientation and technique clinic - discuss and demonstrate mindfulness in the quarry, proper tool techniques, use of consolidants, and other considerations.
- 3:00 p.m. - Depart fieldwork area for GPM
- 3:15 p.m. - **Fossil Roundup** - review the crew’s discoveries and discuss implications for deeper understanding.
- 4:00 p.m. - Program ends.



## SECTION VI

### SCHEDULE

**All programs include three full days (Friday to Sunday) and the addition of a Thursday evening gathering.**

**June 23-26 - Enhanced Program**

**July 7-10 - Enhanced Program**

**July 14-17 - Field Program**

**July 28-31 - Enhanced Program**

**August 4-7 - Enhanced Program**

**August 18-21 - Field Program, Age 18+ Only**

**August 25-28 - Enhanced Program, Age 18+ Only**

**September 8-11 - Field Program**