Since 2014, the University of Calgary has offered a volunteer excavation program at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park.

The volunteer excavation program is offered in conjunction with Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. Participants excavate alongside members of the University of Calgary Archaeology Field School at the famous Cluny Fortified Village Site. First time participants receive a tour of the archaeological site. Volunteers are supervised by experienced University of Calgary graduate students, and training in archaeological excavation techniques are provided on site. All artifacts from the site are the property of the Siksika Nation and, ultimately, will be stored at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Interpretive Centre.

University of Calgary Public Archaeology Program

May 13—June 12, 2019
Mondays—Fridays

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Visit us online:
https://antharky.ucalgary.ca/public-archaeology/

Like us on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/UCpubarky/

Visit Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park online:
http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca
The Program

Participants must commit to a minimum of two days with the program in order to fully experience the dig (these days do not have to be consecutive).

Minimum age of participation is 12. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Cost consists of the daily admission fee to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park ($12.00+GST for adults, $8.00 for children).

Check-In and Required Forms

We meet our volunteers at the Blackfoot Crossing Visitor Center parking lot at 9:00 AM each day and drive them down to the site. We return volunteers to the visitor’s center at about 3:45 PM.

All participants are required to complete a volunteer registration form, a liability waiver, and a photography waiver. Participants under the age of 18 must also have their parent or guardian complete a consent form. All forms are available on our website. The volunteer registration and liability waiver must be completed on site.

Location

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is located in the Canadian Badlands, about an hour’s drive east of Calgary. Directions are provided after registration.

What to Expect

Archaeological excavations require physical activity including kneeling, bending, and lifting. Volunteers will participate in all archaeological excavation activities including digging, screening, recording artifacts, note-taking, and unit mapping. Digging equipment is provided and volunteers are trained in archaeological excavation techniques. In case of heavy rain, all work will be cancelled for the day. The program will attempt to notify participants in advance, however this is not always possible.

What to Bring

Participants must bring their own lunch, water, sun screen, bug repellent, hats, work gloves, and must wear weather appropriate clothing. Close-toed shoes are required.

Updates

During the field season, the program updates daily on Facebook. For announcements from the program and up-to-the-minute posts from the dig site, like our page on Facebook!

There is a maximum of 6 volunteers per day due to equipment and space requirements. Contact the Public Archaeology Program to reserve your spot!