



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Volunteer Public Excavation Program Information

Cluny Fortified Village Site (EePf-1) at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

Program Contact Information

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Site Background

The Cluny Fortified Village Site (EePf-1) is unique in the Canadian Plains, with the appearance of a fortified village similar to those constructed by horticultural people of the Middle Missouri region in North Dakota. However, no evidence of corn cultivation has been found at the site and the fortifications at Cluny exhibit differences from fortified Middle Missouri villages. At Cluny, people constructed pits, trenches, and a palisade apparently to serve as defensive structures. However, non-defensive activities such as food preparation and the production of beads, pottery, and clothing also took place at the site. Based on findings of bone and food residues at Cluny, there is evidence that bison, dog, and large and small mammals were consumed. Archaeological excavations provide an opportunity to examine occupation of the site as well as describe the many unique site characteristics that will lead to a better understanding of the people who lived here.

Volunteer Program

The volunteer excavation program at the site is offered in conjunction with Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (<http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca>). Participants will excavate alongside members of the Archaeology Field School at the famous Cluny Fortified Village site. The program will provide on-site training in archaeological excavation techniques. All artifacts from the site are the property of the Siksika Nation and, ultimately, will be stored at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Interpretive Centre. The program will operate from May 23rd to June 23rd, 2017, Monday–Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM. There is a maximum of 9 volunteers per day due to equipment and space requirements. Email or call the Public Archaeology Program to reserve your day and spot. For more information about the program, email pubarky@ucalgary.ca or call 403-220-8537. More information is also available on the website at <https://arky.ucalgary.ca/public-archaeology/>.

Cost

Cost consists of the daily admission fee to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. Adults: \$12.00 + GST, Youth (8-17): \$8.00 + GST, Seniors (65+): \$8.00 + GST. See the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Website for details. (<http://www.blackfootcrossing.ca/>)

Check-in and Required Forms

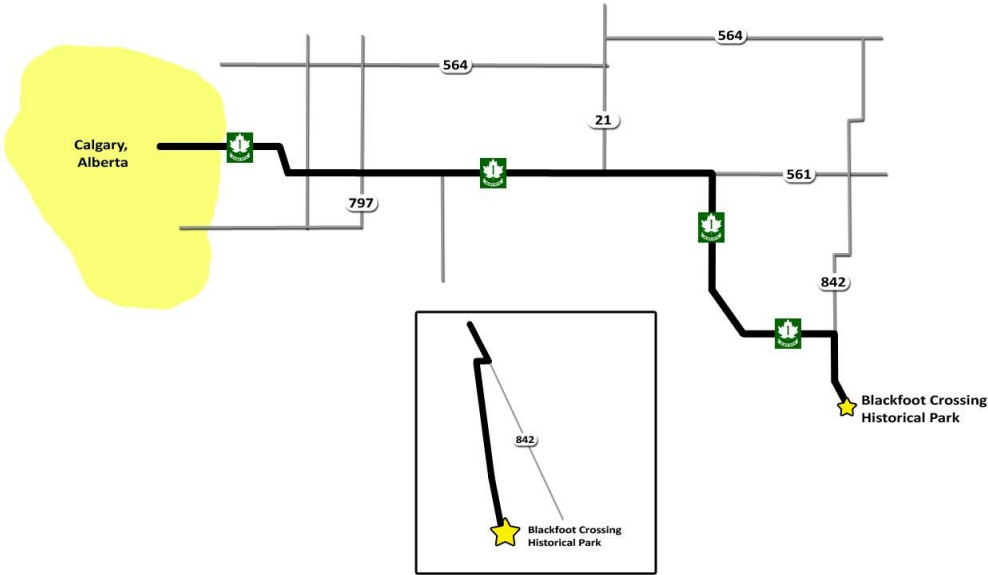
Volunteers will check in with dig staff at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park parking lot at 9 AM. All participants will be required to complete a volunteer registration and liability waiver form, and a photography waiver form. The photography waiver is available on the website and may be completed in advance. The volunteer registration and liability waiver will be completed on site.

The minimum age of participation in the program is 12. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. Participants under the age of 18 must also have their parent or guardian complete an Informed Consent Form. The Informed Consent form is available on the website at <https://arky.ucalgary.ca/public-archaeology/registration>.

Please let the Public Program staff know if you have any medical issues that may affect your participation (for example, severe allergies, etc.) and if there is any assistance you specifically require in case of an incident.

Directions

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is located in the Canadian Badlands Region, about an hour’s drive east of Calgary. From Calgary, drive east on Highway 1 (Trans-Canada Highway) for approximately 100 kilometers, turn right at the town of Cluny, then drive 7 kilometers south on Highway 842. The turnoff for the visitor’s center will be on the right.



What to Bring

Participants must bring their own lunch, water and water bottles, sun screen, bug repellent, hats, work gloves, and wear weather appropriate clothing. Please check the weather forecast and plan accordingly. For safety reasons, close-toed shoes are required to participate in the excavations. **NO PETS** are allowed at the excavation site. No personal vehicles will be allowed at the site. The program will provide all archaeological excavation equipment.

What to Expect

Archaeological excavations require physical activity including kneeling, bending, lifting, screening soil, walking, and carrying heavy objects. Volunteers will be participating in all archaeological excavation activity including digging, screening, recording artifacts, note taking, unit mapping, and drawing excavation profiles. Digging equipment will be provided and volunteers will be trained in archaeological excavation techniques.

Participants will meet at the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park Interpretive Centre parking lot at 9:00 AM each day. Volunteers will have the option of an interpretive centre tour prior to leaving for the site. All waiver forms must be completed before the group leaves for the site. All volunteers must participate in a daily on-site safety briefing. New participants will receive a site tour prior to starting work. Work will finish between 3:30 and 4 PM, and volunteers driven back to the Interpretive Centre. No personal vehicles are allowed at the excavation site.

Facilities

Food is not available at the site and participants are required to bring a lunch, water, and water bottles. Portable toilets will be available at the site. There is no access to the visitor center during the work day due to the loss of the bridge during the 2013 flooding. No personal vehicles are allowed at the site.

Weather and Wildlife

Please be sure to check the weather forecast and bring appropriate clothing. Expect to be working in the sun so bring a hat and sunscreen. Bug repellent is useful as you should expect mosquitoes, ticks, spiders, etc. Expect all weather conditions including rain, snow, wind, sun, heat, sleet, hail, etc. Weather conditions can change quickly so be prepared by bringing appropriate clothing.

In case of heavy rain, all work will be cancelled for the day. If heavy rain is known in advance, the program will contact registered participants via phone to notify them of cancellation.

The Public Archaeology Program, the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, and the University of Calgary are not responsible for cancelled registrations or cancellations as the result of severe weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the Public Archaeology Program will attempt to contact excavation participants either the night before or early on the day of excavation. Changing weather conditions in the field may require cancellation of the workday while at the site. In either case, no refunds of the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park admission fee or costs relating to travel to the park will be provided. Participants may re-register for alternative participation dates, but there is no guarantee that there will be other dates available in the excavation program.