

# **SUMMER CAMP LEADER**

The Dino Day Camp Leaders will be working for Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in Wembley, Alberta, onsite at the museum and at the Pipestone Creek Bonebed site near the museum. The museum, operated by the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society, focuses on palaeontology, geology, archaeology, natural history and Alberta's natural resources. It complements the regional economy and fulfils the need for a local heritage experience. The museum fosters an appreciation and awareness of the region's fossil heritage, while also contributing to an increase in tourism. The museum is located near the Pipestone Creek Bonebed, a park managed by the County of Grande Prairie No.1. The museum operates a number of successful programs at the bonebed site. In 2020, outdoor activities at the museum and at the bonebed proved popular and safe in the current environment. The museum is innovative and interactive, offering authentic educational experiences for all visitors.



During the summer of 2017 the education department launched a trial run of full-day and half-day summer camps. These camps were so successful that we needed to increase our offerings to keep up with future demand. While the camps in 2017 were successful, it wasn't without challenges as we did not have dedicated summer camp staff. In 2018 the museum hired two full-time dedicated summer camp staff. This increase in staffing allowed us to significantly increase the number and quality of our summer camp programs. The museum added a new full day, one week, summer camp, Junior Palaeontologist.

The summer of 2020 presented new challenges. The museum took the opportunity presented by small class size and a preference for outdoor activities to redesign the programs to outdoor camps. The camps were very successful, particularly our 'How to be a Palaeontologist' camp, which was run partially at the bonebed The museum plans to run camps in 2021 fully outdoors and primarily at the bonebed. This enriched camp will also



maintain the small cohorts that serve to make the experience safe from transmission of Covid19. They also enable the camp leaders and museum staff to introduce activities that cannot be delivered in larger groups.

This year, the museum will provide camps for three age groups enabling children from 4 to 12 to experience the outdoor palaeontology camps. In 2021, the museum plans to offer concurrent camps for different age groups. This is in response to parent requests to accommodate families with children of different ages.

This is a perfect opportunity for someone who is interested in education. The camp uses some of the most current thinking about outdoor education in the development of high quality programming that is safe and fun. The museum requires two students for this

program in order to safely meet anticipated Covid19 restrictions and meet anticipated demand. However, the diversity that two individuals will bring will aid in diversifying the skill-building opportunities for the summer students.



The students' work will enable the Museum to continue to deliver high-quality public outreach, summer day camps. This will allow us to deliver a high-quality experience at an accessible cost and increase awareness in the region of the unique fossil record and the importance of local scientific research. Local communities and tourists will benefit greatly from the public service of the two summer students and the education department as a whole by having a wider range of summer day camps available. The summer programs will give families an opportunity to learn and appreciate Alberta's rich cultural heritage and the importance of protecting and preserving it for future generations.

The students will gain invaluable work experience, leadership skills and self-confidence by developing, and leading summer day camp programs. The programs that the museum delivers use leading edge approaches, borrowing from the Forest School and Regio education philosophies.



The students will also assist in Palaeo Pallooza, a summer palaeontology festival at the museum. They will be given a one-week opportunity to assist in fieldwork in the region. The employment of two summer students will benefit the River of Death & Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society by assisting it to fulfil its mission and a number of its objectives. Our mission is to be an international institute for experiential learning dedicated to Alberta's palaeontological heritage through research, collection, preservation, exhibition, public programming, publications and innovative outreach. Our mandate is to discover, protect, and develop northwest Alberta's significant palaeontological resources. Our goal is to access, protect and develop the Pipestone Creek dinosaur excavation and other new fossil sites, and maintain a sustainable world-class dinosaur museum. To accommodate official language minority communities it would be ideal to hire a bilingual student. However, to ensure the inclusion of all individuals the Society had our Gallery Tour and Creating Casts program translated into French.



**Measurable outcomes:** The measurable outcomes of this project will be the successful delivery of six weeks of summer day camp programs. As in previous summers, the number of summer programs attendees will be recorded so we can track how many people our programming is reaching and judge how we should adjust it to suit the needs of the community. The museum also conducts summative evaluation to assess whether the programs are delivering to the quality targets.

We will meet our goals by sticking to hard deadlines presented in the "Description of Tasks" portion of the grant application and appropriate delegation of tasks between the Coordinator of Education and the two summer students.

To measure the success of the summer student position, statistics will be collected from every program, recording the date, time, cost, program and the attendance number.



The museum conducts guest surveys at the end of each program. The students will assist in developing the surveys, evaluating the results and making recommendations based on data. The students will be evaluated on delivery of summer programs and school programs during the months of May and June. This evaluation will be carried out by their immediate supervisor, Nicholas Carter, and will consist of assessing the delivery of a school program, gallery tour and summer program at an agreed upon date and time between the students and their supervisor.

Description of tasks: The student's tasks and responsibilities during their work term with the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum include:
1. Learn about the gallery exhibits and education fossil collections at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
2. Learn how to deliver tours of the museum galleries
3. Learn the museum's grade-specific school programs.
4. Assist in public programming for Palaeo Pallooza, the museum's summer festival until the end of June.



5. Plan and develop summer day camps, including coordinating bookings with front of house staff and communicating with parents.
6. Deliver summer day camps from July 6 – August 28.
7. Assist in field work activities July 20 – 24 and August 10 - 14. Participating in field work will greatly enhance the students' knowledge of local and regional palaeontology and geology.

**8.** Contributing ideas and acquiring the resources for curriculum-based school programs to be ready for delivery in September 2020.

**9.** Learn the palaeontology, geology and natural history of Alberta, especially pertaining to Alberta's Peace Region.

**10.** Learn about the fossil heritage and laws of Alberta and how to identify and interpret different types of

fossils.

**11.** Assist with assorted office and administrative tasks including filling in on front desk and gift

shop duties when necessary.



**12.** Assist with special events such as museum fundraisers and running tables at community events to engage with locals

**Work plan:** The Summer Camp Leaders will be working Monday to Friday. One leader will work 8:30am to 4:30pm, and one 9:00am to 5:00 pm, for the duration of the work term, with some need for flexibility depending on requirements of running programs.

May 10: Students begin

<u>May 10 - 14</u>: Job and safety orientation. Students begin training and learn in-depth content for outdoor school programs, dinosaur bonebed, and gallery exhibits. <u>May 17 to June 27</u>: Students lead outdoor school programs at Pipestone Creek Park for visiting classes with assistance from Coordinator of Education. <u>May 28</u>: Assessment of school program delivery and gallery tours by Coordinator of Education

> J<u>une 7 - July 2:</u> Working from pre-set framework, students will plan hourly activity schedule for Pipestone Naturalists



Summer Camps, with regular assessment by their immediate supervisor. Final plan will be assessed by executive director. July 5 - 9: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Chickadee Level (Ages 4-6, 9 AM – 4 PM) July 12 - 16: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Gray Jay Level (Ages 7-11, 9 AM – 4 PM) & Chickadee Level (Ages 4-6, 9 AM - 4 PM) July 20 – 23: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Raven Level (Ages 12+, 9 AM – 4 PM) July 26 - 30: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Gray Jay Level (Ages 7-11, 9 AM – 4 PM) & Chickadee Level (Ages 4-6, 9 AM – 4 PM) August 3 - 6: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Raven Level (Ages 12+, 9 AM – 4 PM) August 9 - 13: Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Gray Jay Level (Ages 7-11, 9 AM – 4 PM)

<u>August 16 - 20:</u> Pipestone Naturalists Summer Camps: Gray Jay Level (Ages 7-11, 9 AM – 4 PM) & Chickadee Level (Ages 4-6, 9 AM – 4 PM)



<u>August 23 - 27:</u> Students do final cleaning and organizing for the year of camp supplies. Debrief with students and their immediate supervisor on their job performance experience. Students complete end of work term reporting.

**Employability skills to be gained (marketable skills):** Students will gain first-hand experience delivering a Forest School program. As the program has been designed with the Regio and Forest School philosophies in mind, they will gain direct experience in implementing these programs.

Students will gain communication skills from research, writing, speaking and listening. They will develop and expand these skills throughout the summer by delivering guided gallery tours and leading summer day camps. The use of graphics, illustrations, charts and diagrams will enhance both the programs and the students' communication and artistic skills.



The students will learn to manage information by gathering the necessary materials and using a variety of methods and technology in the design and delivery of summer day camp programs. The development of crosscurricular programs will allow the students to expand their knowledge of science, biology, geology, and palaeontology in relation to the Alberta curriculum.

While facilitating programs mostly for children, the students will be faced with many different types of scenarios and potential problems. Students will gain a greater capability to assess, identify and respond to potential problems with creative, innovative and culturally sensitive solutions. By solving problems and successfully facilitating day camp programs, the students will gain self-confidence and leadership skills. Working alongside one another, the two students will create a working and professional relationship, learning to be supportive and respectful of their tasks as a team and as individuals.



With multiple tasks assigned, including the development of summer camps, education programs, family activities, and assorted office tasks, the students will learn time management and multi-tasking, as well as how to be resourceful and innovative with their time and resources to complete the designated tasks from start to finish.

Through self, peer, and supervisor evaluation the students will learn to appreciate the value of feedback and the importance of continuously monitoring the success of the tasks at hand and ways to improve.

Students will gain a firm understanding of deadlines and accountability of their own actions through responsibility to their partner, the rest of the team, and the public to deliver summer day camps in the manner in which they were advertised.



### Skills Students Will Acquire:

- 1. Education skills in an informal setting
- 2. Leadership, especially in a classroom-setting
- 3. Written and oral presentation skills
- **4.** Theoretical and practical knowledge of the Alberta Curriculum
- **5.** Knowledge of palaeontology, geology and Alberta's flora, fauna and Aboriginal history
- 6. Time and task management and organization
- **7.** Skills as an interpreter/tour guide
- **8.** Theatrical skills: scripted and improvised
- **9.** Artistic skills: prop creation, photography, fossil cast and mold production
- **10.** Promotional skills

## Candidate profile:

A successful candidate meet the following criteria:

 Working towards a university/college degree in education, drama, palaeontology, geology, science, biology, archaeology or equivalent and is a returning student



- An interest in informal education, camp experiences.
- A love of the outdoors and of natural history.
- Experienced with developing and delivering school, public programs, day camps and tours
- Experience working with children, youth, & the public
- Knowledgeable (or interested) in Alberta's geology, palaeontology, flora, fauna, Aboriginal & natural history
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Efficient in Microsoft Office
- A self-starter with the ability to work independently and as a team member in a small office environment
- Organized with an attention to detail and able to pursue multiple tasks
- Experience leading programs with children
- Valid Standard First Aid Certificate

 Valid Police Security and Child Welfare Check
 Valid Driver's License (Class 4 or equivalent is an asset) & Access to a vehicle (will be compensated 0.54 cents/km)
 Ability to provide a clean Driving Abstract



We are an equal opportunity employer, and any eligible person is welcome to apply for this position. Visit the following website to register in the YCW online candidate inventory, https://young-canadaworks.canada.ca.

Application deadline: Sunday, April 6th.

Please email your cover letter and resume to the following address: hr@dinomuseum.ca