



SUMMER TOUR GUIDE

Project and job objectives: The Tour Guides/ Program Assistants will be working for Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum located along highway 43 in Wembley, Alberta. The museum, operated by the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society, focuses on the palaeontology, geology, natural history of Alberta. It complements the regional economy and fulfils the need and desire for a cultural and heritage experience in the region therefore enhancing the visibility of cultural and heritage products and services. It fosters appreciation and knowledge of the local and regional palaeontological significance and local heritage, while also contributing to an increase in tourism. The museum is innovative and interactive, offering a hands-on educational experience for all visitors. The museum is located near the Pipestone Creek Bonebed, one of the densest fossil bonebeds in the world. The museum operates camps, Palaeontologist for a Day programs and tours of the bonebed site.



During the summer months, when palaeontology field work is active, the museum offers guided tours of the Pipestone Creek Bonebed. Evaluation has shown that the museum experience increases significantly if guests visit both the museum and the bonebed site.

In 2020, the museum operated bonebed tours modified to ensure the safety of both visitors and staff. Smaller group size and new content helped drive significantly increased demand for Bonebed Tours. The museum also modified the summer camp program, running smaller classes and moving to an outdoor setting. In 2021, summer camps will be conducted daily at Pipestone Creek. The summer tour guides will assist the camp leaders by leading groups of campers on fossil and natural history walks and activities.

The summer students will be an integral part in helping continue and expand these museums public and school based programs, benefiting families and the community at large. Summer students will also be fully involved in Palaeo Pallooza, the museum's first science festival. The students will conduct tours and lead activities such as the Dino Derby and pterodactyl kite flying.



This year, the museum will be hiring an additional tour guide in anticipation of the same increased interest in outdoor activities as we encountered in 2020. Hiring two students will also allow them to work together to develop dynamic programming, permitting us to offer new programs. Two students will give us the ability to produce and deliver a wider variety of drop-in and regularly scheduled summer programs and allows us to increase both the number of participants for in-take and the number of programs offered.

In 2020, the museum found that the smaller camp and program groups that were required for Covid19 also enabled the museum to introduce camp activities that required more adult supervision. The students will assist in these high-value programs.

Under the supervision of the museum's Education Programs Coordinator, Nicholas Carter, the Tour Guides/Program Assistants will deliver the guided dinosaur tours along a maintained gravel pathway to the River of Death & Discovery Dinosaur Bonebed.



Local communities and tourists will benefit greatly from the public service of the two summer students and the Education/Outreach Programs Coordinator via public tours, drop-in programs and special public events. The tours, programs and special events will give families an opportunity to learn and appreciate Alberta's rich palaeontological, cultural, natural and geological history and the importance to protect and preserve it for future generations.

The students will gain invaluable work experience, leadership skills and self-confidence by educating and leading public tours and summer programs. 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 the bonebed tour and gallery tour translated into French.

Measurable outcomes: The measurable outcomes of this project will be the successful delivery of the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Bonebed Tour along with the development and delivery of summer programs.



As in previous summers, the number of people who attend the tours, summer programs will be recorded so we know how many people our programming is reaching and to judge if the numbers are lesser or greater compared to last year and how we should adjust our programming to suit the needs and wants of the community and public at large.

The museum also plans on delivering its first science festival. The festival serves as a means of introducing more members of the public to the palaeontology and natural history of the region. We will meet our goals by sticking to our deadlines presented in the table in the “Description of Tasks” portion of the grant application and appropriate delegation of tasks between the Education/Outreach Programs Coordinator and the two summer students.

To measure the success of the summer student position and the museum programming, the museum will conduct regular evaluation. The museum uses evaluation forms, electronic surveys and focus groups to better understand user needs, expectations and the degree to which the programs meets those needs.



The museum uses the evaluation to ensure that the programs and products that the museum creates deliver. The students will be evaluated on their performance. The students will have a mid-term and final evaluation carried out by their immediate supervisor, Nick Carter. The evaluation will consist of evaluating the delivery of a bonebed tour, gallery tour and summer program at an agreed upon date and time between the student and the supervisor.

Description of tasks: The student's tasks & responsibilities during their work term with the PJCDM include:

1. Learn the two-hour River of Death & Discovery Dinosaur Bonebed guided tour.
2. Deliver bonebed tours to the public from June 21 – August 27 for a total of 10 weeks.
3. Delivery gallery tours to the public at the Museum from June 29 – August 27, 2021.
4. Assist in delivery of summer camp programs during the week from July 8 – August 23, 2021
5. Create new materials to aid and enhance tours (i.e. dinosaur hats, maps, photos, diagrams etc.).



6. Assist the Education Coordinator in delivering programs upon teacher request until the end of June.
7. Gain an understanding of museum programs.
8. Assist the Education Coordinator in developing programs and creating and acquiring the resources for curriculum-based school programs to be ready for delivery in September 2019 by the Education department.
9. Assist with assorted office and administrative tasks
10. Learn the palaeontology, geology and natural history of Alberta and the region.
11. Monitor the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Bonebed
12. Learn about the fossil heritage and laws of Alberta and how to identify and name different types of fossils.
 13. Learn about the exhibits and galleries at the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in order to prepare to deliver guided gallery tours.
14. Deliver and assist with additional guided gallery tours, bonebed tours, and special events as required.



Work plan: The first six weeks of work will be 8:30 – 4:30pm Tuesday to Saturday, May 10 to June 15, 2021, after which the standard work week for student one will be Wednesday to Sunday and for student two will be Friday to Tuesday. Hours will remain flexible to best suit the needs of the public, the Museum and the students. However, starting June 21 the Museum will ensure a predictable work schedule, similar to the following:

Student One (Wednesday – Friday workweek):

Monday is a day off

Tuesday is a day off

Wednesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Student Two (Friday – Tuesday workweek):

Monday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday is a day off

Thursday is a day off

Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm



The timeline for the summer Tour Guides/ Program Assistants:

May 10: Students begin

May 10 & 11: Job and Safety orientation

May 12: Start programming activities, bonebed tour and gallery exhibits

May 16 to June 24: Three days per week, summer students will assist the museum staff with preparations for Palaeo Pallooza, the museum's inaugural science festival.

June 25 & 26: Assist with Palaeo Pallooza. Tasks will include delivering Bonebed tours, assisting with natural history tours.

May 18: Education staff field trip to Pipestone Creek Park and Bonebed

May 27: Deliver "Bonebed Tour" for feedback with Education Coordinator, staff and volunteers

June 7: Deliver "Gallery Tour" for feedback by Education Coordinator

June 3 to June 24: Practice and prepare for public delivery of Bonebed and Galley Tours. Assist with summer camp development.



June 21: Deliver Dinosaur Bonebed Tour & Gallery Tours (First public delivery)

June 21 to August 27: Deliver Bonebed Tours and Gallery Tours

July 2 to 5: Summer students participate in field work and excavating

July 5 to August 20: Assist in summer camp program.

July 6 to September 2: Deliver bonebed tours, gallery tours and assist with summer day camps

July 29 to August 2: Summer students participate and field work and excavating

August 20 to 27: Final wrap up week for summer students

August 27: Summer student work term ends

Employability skills to be gained (marketable skills)
Students will gain communication skills from research, writing, speaking and listening. They will develop and expand these skills throughout the summer by delivering oral, guided tours to the public. The use of graphics, illustrations, charts and diagrams will enhance both the tour and the students' communication and artistic skills.



The students will learn to manage information by locating and gathering the appropriate information and utilizing the appropriate methods and technology in the design and delivery of the dinosaur site tour and the delivery of Forest School education programs. The development of cross-curricular programs will allow the students to expand their knowledge of science, biology, geology, palaeontology, social studies and Aboriginal studies on a scientific level and in relation to the Alberta curriculum. This is an excellent opportunity for someone interested in unstructured learning, the Regio education philosophy and Forest Schools.

While facilitating programs for tourists and the general public, the students will be faced with many different types of scenarios and potential problems. Students will gain a heightened sense and capability to assess, identify and respond to potential problems with creative, innovative and culturally sensitive solutions. By solving problems and successfully facilitating public programs the students will gain self-confidence and leadership skills.



Two students will create a working and professional relationship, learning to be supportive, respectful of their task as a team and as individuals. Students will work independently while delivering the tours, yet they will be an integral part of the team in the office and during the development phase of programs and during summer day camps.

With multiple tasks assigned, including the development of the tour, education programs, family activities and games and assorted office tasks. Students will learn time management, multi-tasking, & how to be resourceful and innovative with their time and resources to complete the designated tasks from start to finish. Through self, team and public 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 because of their responsibility to their partner, the rest of the team and the public to deliver the public bonebed site tours and guided gallery tours in the manner and way advertised.



Skills Students Will Acquire:

1. Leadership
2. Written and oral presentation skills
3. Theoretical and practical knowledge of the Alberta Curriculum, the Reggio philosophy of education, and Forest Schools.
4. Knowledge of palaeontology, geology and Alberta's flora, fauna and Aboriginal history
5. Time and task management and organization
6. Skills as an interpreter/tour guide
7. Artistic skills: prop creation, photography, fossil cast and mold production
8. Promotional skills

The ideal candidate will have the following:

- Current university/college degree in education, drama, palaeontology, geology, science, biology, archaeology or equivalent and is a returning student
- Experience working with children, youth and the general public
- Knowledgeable (or interested) in Alberta's geology, palaeontology, flora and fauna and Aboriginal and natural history



- Fluent in written and spoken English
 - Efficient in Microsoft Office
 - A self-starter with the ability to work independently, with a partner and in a small office environment
 - Organized, attention to detail and able to pursue multiple tasks
 - Experienced with developing and delivering school programs, public programs and tours
 - Performance skills (drama, music, dance, visual arts)
 - 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
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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 on-line candidate inventory, <https://young-canada-works.canada.ca>.

Application deadline: Sunday, April 6th.
Please email your cover letter and resume to the following address: hr@dinomuseum.ca