

Welcome



Citizen Paleontology

G25070313

with Nathan Smith & Randy Irmis
July 20-26, 2025

Ghost Ranch/the instructors will provide all necessary gear/tools/supplies for excavation and fossil collecting (hammers, chisels, dental picks, probes, brushes, bags, etc).

What Personal Gear you should bring:

This is what you want to bring for your time out in the field for your comfort. Everyone is a bit different but here is a good idea of things to bring when you come out.

Clothes:

- Normal hiking clothes. (These are the typical clothes I feel comfortable hiking in. So, a pair of good socks, comfortable under garments, short/pants, and a t-shirt. Breathable fabrics are best. Also bring enough changes of clothes that you feel comfortable for the week)
- One set of cold weather clothes. (Yes, we are working in the summer but I always bring a set of cold weather clothes just in case and have been glad I brought them on multiple occasions.)
- Rain Gear (We are likely to get scattered showers in the afternoon during this time of year)
- Sun Clothes (Optional). Some folks wear sun sleeves or a sun shirt to cover their arms rather than applying sunscreen. This is a personal choice. Some folks also swear by Buffs around their neck)
- Hat/Sunglasses. (A good hat with a brim is definitely necessary)
- Hiking boots. (Although the hike to the site is relatively flat and short, we do not recommend light hikers or tennis shoes. I do recommend a pair of comfy shoes or sandals to hang around back at the Ranch after a long day wearing the boots.)

Personal Toiletries:

- Toothbrush and Paste
- Personal medications
- Hair brush
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Other personal hygiene items
- Hiking gear

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- Backpack. This should be able to hold all your gear you will want to carry for the day ie. Water bottles, Lunch, a few tools, a roll of TP, and any other random gear. I think my typical day pack is a 35 or 45L.
- Water bottles. (At a minimum you should be able to carry at least 3 liters of water with you, but I recommend having capacity for 4 liters)
- Trekking poles. (Optional: not everyone uses them, but several people do)
- Knife & Lighter. (Just because. Everyone should have one)
- Tupperware. (Optional, but I put my snacks and sometimes fossils in a Tupperware so they don't get crushed in my bag)

Random quality of Life:

- Headlamp or Flashlight
- Journal
- Book
- Personal Phone charger or cable (You can charge off the truck batteries if you have your cable)
- Personal food or treats to reward yourself at the end of the day (I hide some candy in my tent to enjoy later as I'm a fat kid)

Again, this is not a comprehensive list but a good starting point of what to bring.

SCHEDULE:

We will grab box lunches every morning at breakfast and head out to the site. Please bring your water bottle, hat, sunscreen, as we will be out in the field most days until 3 or 4. There will be lectures some evenings in the classroom.