

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



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**University of Calgary  
Public Archaeology  
Program**

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**University of  
Calgary Public  
Archaeology  
Program**

**May 20 - June 17, 2020  
Mondays - Fridays**



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Photo Credit: Harrison Boss

## The Site

The Cluny Fortified Village Site (EePf-1) is located in the valley of the Bow River in the Siksika First Nation. The Siksika have known about the site since its settlement around 1700 CE, with visits from Euro-Canadians beginning in 1875 CE. The site is unique to the Canadian Plains, with the appearance of a fortified village similar to those constructed by Middle Missouri horticulturalists 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 small mammals were consumed. Archaeological excavations provide an opportunity to examine the many unique site characteristics that will lead to a better understanding of the people who lived there.

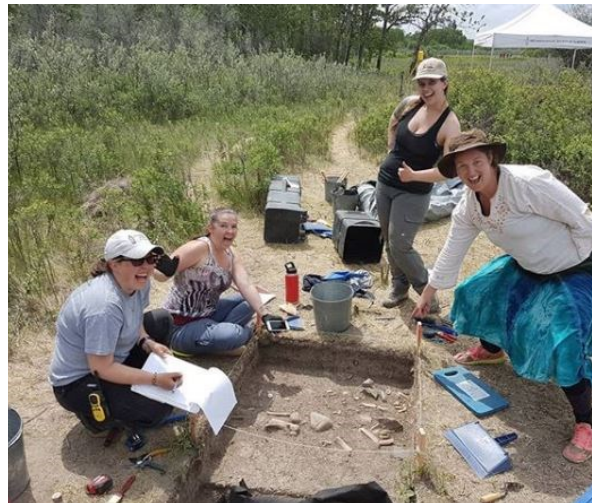
## The Program

It is recommended that participants 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 (\$15.00+GST for adults, \$10.00+GST for youth). Fees include access to the museum at the interpretive centre. We meet our volunteers at the Blackfoot Crossing Visitor Center parking lot at 9:30 AM each day and drive them down to the site. We return volunteers to the visitor's center at about 3:30 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 must be completed before participants visit site.



## The Day

### Location

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is located on the Siksika Nation, about an hour's drive east of Calgary.

### What to Expect

Archaeological excavations require physical activity including kneeling, bending, and lifting. If you have medical concerns, please contact us as we can accommodate some restrictions.

Volunteers will work with University of Calgary archaeologists to learn about and perform archaeological investigations including recording, artifact identification, excavation techniques, and in-field cataloging. No prior experience is required, and excavation equipment is provided.

For safety reasons, excavations will be canceled in the event of rain or poor weather. Participants will be notified as soon as possible if the day is cancelled. Once paid, fees cannot be reimbursed.

### What to Bring

Participants must bring their own lunch, water (3L), sun screen, bug repellent, hats, work gloves, and must wear weather appropriate clothing. Closed-toe shoes are mandatory.

More detailed information will be sent after registration.

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