

Frequently Asked Questions about the Museum Expedition

How do I know which session is right for me?

This year we will be offering three sessions to provide opportunities for those who are interested in attending the 39th Annual Museum Expedition. The first week, Middle School Camp is for students who have completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grades and the focus will be on collecting and identifying artifacts. The second week, High School Camp, is geared toward students who completed 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades and will focus on the same aspects as the middle school with more emphasis on interpretation. The last week, Public Archeology, is open to any member of the general public aged 14 and up (parents can accompany younger children) interested in the fields of archeology and other natural sciences.

How do campers get to Expedition?

Participants should be dropped off at the Expedition camp between **2:00 p.m.** and **3:00 p.m.** on the first day of each Expedition session and picked up by **10:00 a.m.** on the final day of the Expedition session. The Expedition camp is closed between sessions to allow for preparations for the next group.

Where is the Expedition being held?

Expedition #39 is being hosted at Old Cahawba Archeological Park near Orrville, AL in Dallas County.

Will participants leave the Expedition camp site?

Yes, participants leave the Expedition campsite on a daily basis to travel to the fossil sites in the area during afternoon programming. Participants are transported in University of Alabama vans that are driven by Expedition staff members who are over age 21 and have been approved (Motor Vehicle Records checked) by the University.

How many campers will be at each Expedition?

We usually average around 20 participants per week, with a maximum of 25 campers at each Expedition session. There are 5-6 full-time staff members on-site and the majority of them have many previous years of experience with the Expedition.

Will campers need specialized equipment for Expedition?

Outside of normal camping gear like a sleeping bag, flashlight, etc., no specialized gear will be needed for Expedition. The Museum will supply all of the outdoor and archaeological equipment that will be used during the week. A detailed packing list is provided for each camper with his or her registration. Please feel free to call us if you have specific questions about the items on the list.

What is the food like on Expedition?

Food on the Expedition is excellent! (No Really it is EXCELLENT!) Meals are prepared fresh on site and served in our dining tent. Campers can expect to eat two hearty, hot meals a day – breakfast and supper – and a healthy cold lunch (sandwiches, fresh fruit, etc.). We try to accommodate those with special dietary needs, so please **let us know in advance**.

Will campers need to have additional money?

No, they will not need any additional money for the camp other than personal spending money. All of the campers' needs are taken care of and included in the registration fees. However, when travelling from one field site to another, we occasionally make stops for snacks and cold drinks and so campers may want to bring around \$3 per day for incidentals. In addition, our fabulous Expedition t-shirts will be available for purchase at the price of \$10 each.

Who staffs Expedition?

This is the 39th consecutive year for the Museum Expedition. It is run by full-time employees of the UA Alabama Museum of Natural History with help from summer staff. Expedition Leader, Todd Hester, has been involved in the expedition for over 6 years. Camp Director, Allie Sorlie, has been involved for 3 years. Motor Vehicle Records and background checks are completed on all staff as part of their employment with the University of Alabama.

Are there medical clinics or hospitals close by?

The Camp Director and the Expedition Leader are certified as a Wilderness First Responder and have extensive first aid training. We hope to attend to any minor medical needs in the camp. However, in the event of an emergency, there is a medical Facility located in the nearby city of Selma and a trauma center and hospital is located in Montgomery, AL.

Where do campers sleep during the Expedition?

Participants will sleep in Expedition tents which can accommodate two people. Family members and friends who come to the Expedition together may request to be tent-mates. The tents are set up and are equipped with two cots so campers will not have to set up or take down tents. Everyone, however, will need to bring their own pillow, sheets, cotton blankets or sleeping bags. In addition, it is recommended that campers pack all their clothes in a plastic tote, bring a disposable door mat for their tent and any other items that will make their sleeping more comfortable. A full list of items to pack for Expedition will be provided in your registration packet.

What will a day be like on Expedition?

The Expedition is designed to be a full immersion experience for anyone who is interested in natural sciences. Each day, Expedition participants work with researchers in the field and spend their afternoons doing fun camp activities like swimming, canoeing or taking nature walks. In the evenings, Expedition staff and participants hold a round-table discussion of the day's events. The evening is then rounded off by a Natural History-oriented presentation that is given by a member of the Expedition staff. And of course, there is always some free time for playing volleyball, throwing the Frisbee, playing cards and games, playing musical instruments if brought, or just quiet reflection.