



The Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre

www.bodoarchaeology.com

bodoarchaeology@gmail.com

(P) 780-753-4056

2026 Curriculum-Based Archaeological Field Trip School Program



Grades 1 to 12

The Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre is located 25 minutes south of Provost, Alberta, along Highway 899 South in the hamlet of Bodo, AB. All programs start at the Bodo Archaeological Centre, located on the east end of Bodo on Railway Avenue and 1st Street (tan-colored brick building with brown tin roof).

Programs sponsored in part by





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Dear Educator

This year, bring your classroom to the Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre, where curriculum and hands-on learning meet for a unique field trip experience. Sign up today for one of our programs that shows the cross-disciplinary nature of archaeology by meeting multiple curriculum needs.

Students will discover archaeology and learn more about Alberta's history, all while having fun and engaging in interactive experiences. Activities include a visit to an archaeology laboratory, participation in a mock dig, testing their skills as a hunter with atlatl throwing, and other experiences. Students will see firsthand what goes into understanding an active archaeological site during a visit to the Bodo Archaeological Site, during either a Half-Day or an Overnight Field Trip. If you wish to come from a greater distance, please reach out; we are happy to adapt our programs to make this work for your class!

Multi-Archaeology is an excellent teaching tool for all ages. It is a discipline capable of instructing students in a wide variety of skills while simultaneously providing them with an appreciation of the importance of preserving our cultural past. It is also an excellent example of a cross-disciplinary social science, and our programs reflect that by incorporating key points of multiple curricula.

Please circulate the enclosed information regarding the Half-Day and Overnight Field Trip Programs to teachers in your school and district. The link to the registration form can be found in the button below. It can also be found online at

<https://bodoarchaeology.com/school-programs/>

2026 Bodo Archaeological Site
& Centre Field Trip
Registration Form

Once registered for a Field Trip, supplementary information (*e.g., student requirements for the trip, liability waiver, and grade-specific curriculum connections*) will be emailed to the field trip lead. The waiver and general requirement information can also be found online at <https://bodoarchaeology.com/school-programs/>

We operate on a first-come, first-served basis, so school tours fill up fast. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Half-Day Field Trips 2026 Dates: May 20-22, May 26-29, June 2-5, June 9-12, June 16-17, June 19, June 4-26

Overnight Field Trip 2026 Dates: May 20-22, May 26-29, June 2-5, June 9-12, June 16-17, June 4-26

Sincerely,

Tamara Moore, Programs Manager/Project Archaeologist



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Half-Day Field Trip (*See end of document for an example schedule with times*)

- First arrive & 10 minutes
 - The class(es) arrive at the Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre and undergo a short welcome presentation to set expectations for the day and meet the program facilitators for the day.
- 10 Minutes
 - Snack and bathroom break.
- 45 Minutes
 - The class(es) are divided into facilitator groups, and go through the first **Program Stop** (one group remaining at the Interpretive Centre, the other going to the Archaeological Site).
- 45 Minutes
 - Re-group at the Interpretive Centre, and the two groups switch and do the second **Program Stop**.
- 20-30 Minutes
 - All groups return to the Interpretive Centre and have lunch (*length of lunch depends on arrival/departure time, with a minimum of 20 minutes, maximum of 30 minutes*)
- 45 Minutes
 - The full group take part in the **Mock-Dig Activity** to apply the information that they learned in the morning.
- 45 Minutes
 - Classes are divided into two groups and alternate between one of the two **Afternoon Activities** for 20 Minutes.
- 15 Minutes
 - Pack up and get back on the bus to head back to the school (at 2 pm).

Half-Day Program Stops

1. The Interpretive Centre, with Two Components:
 - a. In the Tipi room, the students will be shown artifacts recovered over the years from the archaeological site and some object reconstructions. In this section, they will also learn about how Indigenous Peoples continue to use and carry on traditional practices (e.g., learning about four sacred medicines, pemmican, etc.) (15 minutes)
 - b. In the Archaeology Lab, the students will learn more about post-excavation work undertaken by archaeologists. They will have the opportunity to learn about raw



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materials and then do a hands-on project of artifact identification of actual archaeological artifacts.

2. The Archaeological Site

- a. A short bus ride to an OUTDOOR active archaeological excavation to see and understand archaeological fieldwork.
- b. Students will learn about the different kinds of features that have been found at the Bodo Archaeological Sites, and the key components of each that tell us what they are (e.g., artifact differences between a hearth and a bison pound).

Half-Day Mock-Dig Activity

- Students will form into teams (*up to 4 students*) and work on ‘excavating’ custom mock-dig units to find specific features that they have learned about. Unlike in previous years, artifacts in the mock-digs will not be loose, but instead will be permanent fixtures in the unit boxes.
- During the process of ‘excavating’ the features, the student teams will have an activity sheet to record the work they do, as well as the interpretations, once the entire feature is uncovered. This activity will allow the students to combine what they have learned from the facilitators with hands-on experiences.
 - *Activity sheets will be modified based on the grade of participants.*

Half-Day Afternoon Activities

1. Atlatl throwing: Students will get the opportunity to use our replica atlatl (spear thrower), which tests their hand-eye coordination, aim, assessment of strength/effort needed, and learn about leverage and counterbalance.
2. Gift Shop: The Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre includes a gift shop for souvenirs and snacks. The coordinator will collaborate with the lead teacher at the start of the program to determine whether students will have the gift shop opportunity.
 - a. *If the students are not in the Gift Shop, an alternate activity will be done in its stead.*
 - b.

Schedule Example with Times

- 10:00 - 10:10 AM
 - The class(es) arrive at the Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre and undergo a short welcome presentation to set expectations for the day and meet the program facilitators for the day.
- 10:10 - 10:20 AM
 - Snack and bathroom break.
- 10:20 - 11:05 AM
 - The class(es) are divided into facilitator groups (the size and number of groups depending on the number of facilitators), and go through the first **Program Stop**.
- 11:05 - 11:50 AM
 - Re-group at the Interpretive Centre, and the two groups switch and do the second **Program Stop**.
- 11:50 AM - 12:10 PM
 - Lunch (*length of lunch depends on arrival/departure time*)
- 12:10 - 12:55 PM
 - The full group take part in the **Mock-Dig Activity** to apply the information that they learned in the morning.
- 1:00 - 1:45 PM
 - Classes are divided into two groups and alternate between one of the two **Afternoon Activities** for 20 minutes each.
- 1:45 - 2:00 PM
 - Pack up and get back on the bus to head back to the school (at 2 pm).



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Overnight Field Trip

DAY 1

- 1 pm - The class arrives at the Bodo Archaeological Site & Centre. If the class is staying in the campground, time will be taken for the setup and organization of tents, sleeping bags, etc.
 - If the class is staying in the Centre, the overnight items will be stored in an area out of the way, to be organized once the day's programs are finished.
- 1:30* pm - Undergo a short welcome presentation to set expectations for the trip and meet the program facilitators.
- 1:40 pm - The class is divided into two groups and goes to one of the two **Interpretive Centre Programs**.
- 2:25 pm - Groups switch and go to the second of the **Interpretive Centre Programs**.
- 3:00 pm - Snack time and bathroom break
- 3:15 pm - Creative activity (based on Field Trip Theme) and Indigenous games (*number of games played depends on the time taken for the creative activity*).
- 4:30 pm - The class will go as one group to visit the **Archaeological Site**.
 - A short bus ride to an **OUTDOOR** active archaeological excavation to see and understand archaeological fieldwork.
 - Students will learn about the different kinds of features that have been found at the Bodo Archaeological Sites and the key components of each that tell us what they are (e.g., artifact differences between a hearth and a bison pound).
 - **Public Archaeology** component of the program; students in Grade 7 or under will engage in Pedestrian Survey/Field Walking, with Grade 8 and higher learning how to conduct Shovel Tests.
- 6:00 pm - Return to the Interpretive Centre, students clean up as needed.
- 6:15 pm - Dinner
- 6:45 pm - The full group take part in the **Mock-Dig Activity** to apply the information that they learned in the morning.
- 7:30 pm - Evening campfire (*weather & fire ban permitting*) and dessert.
- 8:00 pm - Facilitators leave for the evening. Students and supervisors are on their own until the morning.

Day 2

- 7:30 am - Camp cleanup/packing and facilitators arrive back at the Interpretive Centre
- 8:00 am - Breakfast
- 8:45/9:00 am - Full class travels by bus to the **Outdoor Activity** associated with the program theme
- 10:30 am - Class returns to the Interpretive Centre. Time will be open for students to visit the Gift Shop, finish packing up all personal items and crafts, and get ready for departure.
- 11:00 am - Back on the bus to return to school.



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The Interpretive Centre Programs

- The Tipi Room
 - The students will be shown artifacts recovered over the years from the archaeological site and some object reconstructions. In this section, they will also learn about how Indigenous Peoples continue to use and carry on traditional practices (e.g., learning about four sacred medicines, pemmican, etc.)
 - Atlatl throwing: Students will get the opportunity to use our replica atlatl (spear thrower), which tests their hand-eye coordination, aim, assessment of strength/effort needed, and learn about leverage and counterbalance.
- The Archaeology Lab
 - The students will learn more about post-excavation work undertaken by archaeologists. They will have the opportunity to learn about raw materials and then do a hands-on artifact identification project of actual archaeological artifacts.

Field Trip Themes

- Plants: This program theme will focus on teaching students about native prairie plant species that are found in the Bodo area. Students will learn to identify these plants, some of their modern and traditional uses, and the importance of these plants to Indigenous Peoples.
 - Craft Activity: Build a DIY plant press
 - Outdoor Activity: A guided walk to the top of the Overlook Hill, looking for and finding plants that have been discussed. The students will take small samples of some of the plants seen, putting them into their plant press. The press is then taken home with the students, to be opened a minimum of a week later to see their specimens.
- Geology & Lithics: This program will focus on teaching students about geological processes that resulted in the location of different kinds of lithic (rock) raw materials used by Pre-Contact Indigenous Peoples. The students will learn about the different kinds of lithics found at Bodo and the source of those lithics. Students will also learn about the geological processes that formed the Bodo area and the landscape markers we still have that tell us about those processes.
 - Craft Activity: Flint knapping
 - Outdoor Activity: A two-stop tour, first to a local glacial erratic turned bison-rubbing-stone, and then to the nearby sand dunes.
- Geology & Pottery: Students will learn about the geological processes that formed the Bodo area and the landscape markers we still have that tell us about those processes. They will also learn about raw materials and how they were collected and altered to be used by people, focusing on collecting, processing, and the process of turning wild clay into usable pottery.
 - Craft Activity: Making a pinch or coil pot from air-dry clay.
 - Outdoor Activity: A two-stop tour, first to a local glacial erratic turned bison-rubbing-stone, and then to the nearby sand dunes.



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Public Archaeology Components

- Pedestrian Survey/Field Walking
 - Walk together across an area of interest, looking at the ground to spot potential artifacts. If an artifact is found, it will be noted and a GPS point placed for future investigation.
- Shovel Testing
 - Below the surface exploration of set areas of the archaeological site. Students will work in teams and use provided equipment to dig a 50 cm x 50 cm test unit and screen the resulting soil for potential artifacts.

Additional Resources

Details about the following resources can be found online at bodoarchaeology.com

In-School Classroom Visits: If your class can't make it to Bodo, we can come to you! A professional archaeologist will visit your classroom either in person or virtually.