

Explore the past
for yourself, come
excavate at the
Cluny
Fortified
Village
site and
dig into
history!



Cluny Fortified Village

The Cluny Fortified Village Site (EePf-1) is an archaeological site located in the valley of the Bow River on Siksika First Nation. Blackfoot knowledge of the site dates back to 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 fortifications people constructed of pits and trenches for defense surrounding the village. The inhabitants resided here peacefully and activities such as food procurement and preparation, as well as the production of beads, pottery, and clothing took place at the site. The evidence of these activities remain at the archaeological site in the form of artifacts. Archaeological excavations provide an opportunity to examine first-hand the ways people of the past lived and thrived.

This program provides a unique opportunity for students to discover Indigenous history in Southern Alberta for themselves and to work alongside archaeologists, University of Calgary students, and local community members to uncover cultural history that will lead to a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the complex history of the land.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts Program for
Public Archaeology:

Archaeology Indigenous Youth Engagement Program

To book your school please email
Program Director Kelsey Pennanen:
arky.engagement@ucalgary.ca

Or call
(807) 938-5507

Department of Anthropology and
Archaeology
University of Calgary
Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4

 Facebook.com/
UCpubarky

Visit Blackfoot Crossing Historical
Park online:
www.blackfootcrossing.ca



Program For Public
Archaeology:

ARCHAEOLOGY INDIGENOUS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS



The Program

The program provides students the unique educational experience to explore the intersections of culture, history, science and language in meaningful ways using the lens of archaeology through in-class activities and a field trip to participate in a real archaeological excavation.

The classroom day take place prior to the excavation and consist of curriculum-aligned, archaeology-themed activities to teach key topics and prepare students to participate in excavation. A field trip to the site is then scheduled, with students being provided the opportunity to unearth first-hand the cultural heritage of Alberta.

By exposing students to the discipline of archaeology, as well as through positive interactions with University of Calgary graduate and undergraduate students, and Indigenous community members, we hope it may encourage continued post-secondary education and respect for heritage.

This program is provided through the University of Calgary Public Archaeology Program, together with Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (BCHP) and the Siksika Board of Education, with the support of the Calgary Foundation helps make this possible.

Classroom Activities

Students will take part in a number of activities that are aligned with Alberta's Educational Curriculum. Activities include:

- **Alberta Prehistory**
- **Biology and Buffalo:** Students will learn about bones and traditional names of buffalo using real bison (buffalo) bones
- **Geology and Lithic Analysis:** Students will learn to identify stone tool raw materials and draw sediment profiles
- **Ceramic Analysis:** Students will learn pottery construction and decoration styles
- **Geography:** Students will learn basic mapping techniques and how to locate archaeological sites
- **Excavation Techniques and Data Recording:** Students will learn the basic skills required for excavation

Out in the Field

Students will then apply the skills learned in the classroom at a real archaeological excavation. The day in the field will consist of:

- **Tour of the archaeological site**
- **Excavation and recovery of artifacts**
- **Recording and mapping artifacts**
- **On-site discussions of Alberta prehistory**
- **Atl-atl throwing**
- **Reflections at the tipi village**



Location

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

Cost and Required Forms

Cost consists of the daily admission fee to Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park (\$15.00+GST for adults, \$10.00 for students, reduced to \$7.00 for more than 25 students), as well as transportation of the students to and from the site.

All participants are required to complete a field trip liability waiver, and a photography waiver. Participants under the age of 18 must also have their parent or guardian complete a consent form and emergency contact form.

What to Expect

Archaeological excavations require physical activity including kneeling, bending, and lifting. Students will participate in all archaeological excavation activities including digging, screening, recording artifacts, note-taking, and unit mapping. Digging equipment is provided and students are paired with an archaeologist trained in excavation techniques. In case of heavy rain, the day will be cancelled and re-scheduled.

What to Bring

Participants must bring their own lunch, water, sun screen, bug repellent, hats, work gloves, and must wear weather appropriate clothing. Close-toed shoes are required.

Space is limited, to take part in this free educational program, please contact the Aboriginal Youth Engagement Program Coordinators and reserve your spot today!