

Rules & Regulations Governing Buena Vista Museum Of Natural History Excavations At Shark Tooth Hill Bonebed. Bakersfield, California

1. You are allowed access to participate in the paleontologic excavation on this private property only on the dates specified (2019)
2. You must be accompanied by the museum field guide(s) appointed for that date.
3. You are required to be a current dues paying member of the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History and covered by their liability insurance before you can enter the property.
4. **No one under the age of 12 is allowed on this field trip.** Children (12 to 18 years old), must be accompanied by a paying parent or adult relative. A parent must accompany their child under the age of 18 at all times (one parent per child, no exceptions). The area is dangerous. Children or Adults running, throwing objects, jumping off hills, or exploring on their own will be given one warning, and then will be told to leave the property with no refund.
5. **No handicap access** is provided to the area. This is not a handicap friendly site. The surface is uneven and many excavated holes exist. Only persons in good health should attempt this strenuous field trip.
6. Only high clearance vehicles (4 wheel drive, etc.) are recommended beyond the parking area. This is a construction area and any roads may be classified as un-improved or not maintained. Upon entrance to the property, the drivers assume all liability for damage to their vehicles arising from any road conditions / hazards encountered while on the property. You must park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.
7. You must remove all trash you bring to the site.
8. Unless otherwise specified by the land owner or representative. This is a ***NO SMOKING AREA at any time.*** Due to extreme fire danger (dry grass), smoking is not allowed on the property or in your vehicle. If you are caught lighting up, you will be told to leave the property immediately with no refund.
9. You must stop your digging activities and leave the property when the field guides or other authorized personnel specify.
10. **Warning: You can be injured if you are not careful. Anyone acting irresponsibly will be immediately escorted from the property with no refund.** Located in the area are construction equipment & supplies, and construction activities may be in progress. Stay away from the equipment and materials and remain alert and cautious at all times. You must stay within the designated area(s). Do not explore other areas.
11. **Some of the hazards you will encounter at the fossil site include, but are not limited to the following list:**
 - a. There is no potable water at the site. Make sure you have plenty of water to drink.
 - b. There are no bathroom facilities at the site. Bring your own personal paper and take it with you when you are done.
 - c. There are no shaded areas. The sun's UV rays are very strong during this time of year. Wear a wide brim hat and use sunscreen on exposed skin. Long sleeve shirts are recommended.
 - d. Spring/summer time is snake season. Rattlesnakes are very dangerous and may strike without warning. Do not tease or handle any snakes. Report all encounters with snakes to the field guides immediately.
 - e. The disease, Valley Fever, may exist in the soil. Valley Fever spores are present in all of Kern County and in the arid desert regions of the S.W. United States. Wearing a dusk mask is recommended.
12. **All fossils found that are deemed scientifically significant belong to the Museum / Property Owner.** You must stay within the designated areas.
13. Great care should be used in removing matrix material from the bone bed. The field guide will demonstrate how to find the bone bed and properly remove the rock matrix containing fossils. Please be careful about how you dig. In the past, several large shark teeth have been damaged or destroyed by aggressive or improper digging techniques.

What should you bring? Here is a suggested list:

Water, juice or soft drinks (no alcohol allowed).

Food: Snack Foods/nuts, trail mix are always good to have and Lunch if desired.

Personal items: Dust mask, Hand sanitizer, Sun Screen, chapstick, Toilet paper for personal needs and makes great wrapping/packing material for fragile fossils. Knee pads or old pillows work too, umbrella for shade and Paper towels have many uses. Personal size First aid kit.

Tools: Shovel, pick, flat head screw driver, small hand held shovel or gardening trowel, bucket, pry bar, rock hammer and screens for sifting.

Clothing suggestions: comfortable and protective, jeans, wide brim hat, long sleeves, sturdy shoes or hiking boots. Mornings might be cool, but afternoons can be hot it is good to have layers.

Return this page with reservation form:

Acknowledgement of Rules & Regulations Governing Excavating for 2018

I was supplied a copy of the Rules and Regulations governing paleontological excavating on the Ernst Shark Tooth Hill property. I agree to abide by all the requirements. I understand the dangers associated with wildlife, Valley Fever, digging, terrain and site conditions. I understand my obligation to follow the rules and remove all trash that I generate while on the property. Noncompliance with rules and regulations will result in warning and or immediately being asked to leave property with no refund.

I also authorize the possible use of my photograph for any educational and/or publicity purposes related to BVM.

Please print name:

Name: _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Other family member Please print name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Other family member Please print name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Other family member Please print name: _____

Signature _____ Date _____