Ice Age Explorers Program

The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD Inc.

Summer 2027



Welcome!

We want to thank you for your interest in The Mammoth Site! By participating in our Ice Age Explorers Program, you are helping preserve a one-of-a-kind natural treasure and are becoming a part of The Mammoth Site family!

For over fifty years, The Mammoth Site has been dedicated to research, education, and outreach, and we welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with you. We hope your time here will be both enjoyable and constructive.

We look forward to an excellent summer season with you!

Sincerely,
The Mammoth Site Team



About Us



Our story begins in 1974, when bulldozers leveling a hill for a housing project unearthed mammoth bone and tusks. The land owner, Phil Anderson, halted construction until Dr. Larry Agenbroad and his team of paleontologists could assess the find. From there, a private non-profit organization, The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD Inc., was formed to protect and preserve this site.

The site preserves the in-situ remains of over 61 Columbian and woolly mammoths, and over 85 species of plants and animals from our 140,000-year-old sinkhole.

Today, The Mammoth Site is a world-renowned ice age research institution and popular tourist destination. We are committed to the continued research, preservation, and education of our site for years to come!

Your Participation

The Ice Age Explorer program is intended to provide a hands-on experience in different areas of paleontology encompassed by our site. These include:

- Excavation and preservation in the Bonebed
- Fossil preparation in the Dr. Paul Wittenberg Prep Lab
- Screenwashing and picking sediments for microfossils

Our goal at The Mammoth Site is to preserve and protect our site for future generations of researchers, visitors, and Explorers alike. Your participation in this program will make a critical contribution to the ongoing research and preservation of the site.

Participation Requirements

Participants must be at least 18 years of age (16 years of age if accompanied by a parent or guardian, at the discretion of the Division of Research Staff).

Participants must be able to:

- Follow all instruction given by Mammoth Site research staff
- Confidently move around the Bonebed without assistance
- Use hand tools to dig in a controlled manner for extended periods of time
- Sit, stand, kneel, and bend for six to eight hours each day on uneven ground
- Lift and carry 20–40 lb. (9–18 kg) buckets of sediment

The Week at a Glance

Sunday	Arrival – Welcome Dinner
Monday	Orientation with staff, tour of the Site, work at the Site
Tuesday–Thursday	Work at the Site
Friday	Work and clean up
Saturday	Departure

Flexible Arrangements

Our program is set up on a week-by-week basis throughout the month of July. Participants have the opportunity to register for a single or multiple weeks. The week options are listed below:

- Session 1 July 12th – July 16th
  (Welcome Dinner: Sunday, July 11th)
- Session 2 July 19th – July 23rd
  (Welcome Dinner: Sunday, July 18th)



Daily Schedule

8:30 am	Arrive at the Site
8:30–10:00 am	Work
10:00–10:15 am	Morning break (order lunches)
10:15 am–12:00 pm	Work
12:00–12:30 pm	Lunch break
12:30–2:30 pm	Work
2:30–3:00 pm	Afternoon (popsicle) break
3:00–4:30 pm	Work
4:30 pm	Clean up for the day



Program Fees

Participation	$900 per week

Participation fee includes program fee and lunch* for the week (Monday–Friday)

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required at time of application.

*Please alert The Mammoth Site to any special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian or vegan diets, diabetes, lactose intolerance, nut or other serious food allergy).

Note: Accommodation of special diets is not guaranteed. Please contact The Mammoth Site for more details

Additional Accommodations

Hotel	$600 per week

Participants may elect to make different housing arrangements at their own expense. Participants will be responsible for breakfast and transportation between their accommodations and The Mammoth Site.

You MUST notify The Mammoth Site of your housing decision when reserving a spot in the Ice Age Explorers program.

Mammoth Site Research Staff

Dr. Chris Jass

Principal Investigator



Dr. Chris Jass holds a B.S. in Sociology/Social Science from Black Hills State University, a M.S in Quaternary Studies from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from the University of Texas at Austin. He oversees research conducted at The Mammoth Site, including determining project areas in the Bonebed. Dr. Jass has been involved in this capacity since 2023.



Kelly Lubbers

Head of Collections & Conservation

Kelly holds a B.S. in Geology from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and a M.S. in Geosciences from East Tennessee State University. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the Division of Research, including excaveation and preservation efforts within the Bonebed. Kelly has been at the Site since 2022.

Grace Self

Preparator

Grace holds a B.S. in Geology from the University of Texas in Austin, TX. Her position involves cleaning, reconstructing, and removing sediment from specimens removed from the Bonebed and other localities. Grace has been at the Site since 2022.



Interested in Joining Us?

Please contact us for a reservation or questions:

Jarrett Weimer, Administrative Assistant
Email: jweimer@mammothsite.org
Phone: (605) 745-6017

Important Dates

May 15	Registration and Deposit Deadline
First Day of Session	Payment Deadline

The Mammoth Site® of Hot Springs, SD, Inc.

