



**PALEONTOLOGICAL DIG
UTICA, KANSAS
NIOBRARA FORMATION
SEPTEMBER, 2026**

INFORMATION INSIDE





YOU'RE INVITED!

Dear friends,

I am so excited to announce that I will be leading an upcoming paleontological dig in Western Kansas this year.

We will be digging in what is known as the Niobrara Formation, a famous formation of rocks with a lot of history.

In the past, many important discoveries have been made within only miles of where we are working: an 18-foot long scissortail xiphactinus with another fish preserved in its stomach! Giant 50-foot long Mosasaurs and other Tylosaurs! Pterodactyl, and millions of large clams. All fossilized -- and all found at 2,500 feet ABOVE present-day sea level over 1,000 miles from the nearest ocean!

The next logical question is: What are all of these giant sea creatures doing so far inland, and at such a high-and-dry elevation? Could it have been the catastrophic flood recorded in the Bible?

Because most of the creatures found here are not dinosaurs that walked upright on land, this dig is not technically a "dinosaur dig" but instead, a genuine paleontological dig for giant marine predators. It is an excellent opportunity for families to bond and children to learn about God's creation, the flood, and how to dig for fossils the correct way.

There will be plenty of time to make new friends, play games, and fellowship each evening. On Saturday we cap the week with a family conference including educational presentations, live music, interactive demonstrations, and more.

If you are interested in being a part of this

DAVID RIVES MINISTRIES PALEONTOLOGICAL DIG UTICA, KANSAS

family dig, please let us know as soon as possible. Space is limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis.

Because of the remoteness of the location, an adult chaperone is required for any youth wanting to attend. Lodging is limited and participants will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the dig site. Please let us know if you are interested in participating and we will send you more information.

We hope to see you this year, as we explore the world, learn the Bible, and praise the Creator!

Details on following pages. We reserve the right to limit participants and choose those who will receive a final invitation based on a variety of factors.

*Truly, the heavens
declare the Glory
of God!*

-David Rives





PHOTOS FROM PAST
KANSAS DIGS AND
PALEONTOLOGICAL
FINDS OF THE AREA



CALL DAVID RIVES MINISTRIES TO SIGN UP 931-212-7990



The fossilized remains of vertebrate animals such as sea creatures, dinosaurs, flying reptiles and mammoths are found embedded in chalk layers located in western Kansas. Several varieties of sharks and fish are common. These fossils are found at an elevation of approximately twenty five hundred feet above sea level and at a distance of over a thousand miles from the nearest ocean. How is that possible?

Evolutionary geologists and paleontologists agree that at one time water covered a large part of North America. They believe that occurred millions or even hundreds of million years ago. Even so, there is another explanation. It is found in the book of Genesis. Around four thousand years ago a global flood covered the entire earth, quickly burying plants and animals and thereby producing the well preserved fossils we find in Kansas. One of the best specimens found nearby is the “fish within a fish” fossil currently displayed in the Sternberg Museum in Hays, Kansas.

SCHEDULE: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 1-4

- 8AM - MEET AT RANCH, UTICA KANSAS (Detailed directions will be provided for final participants)
- 8:30 AM - TRANSFER TO DIG SITE - EXCAVATIONS 9AM-4PM
- 4PM - RETURN TO RANCH FOR DINNER
- FELLOWSHIP - 5-6 PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5

- 10AM TILL 2PM - MEET FOR PRESENTATIONS / SEMINAR / LIVE MUSIC / FELLOWSHIP (Lunch will be provided)

PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1a. Your own hotel accommodations in WaKeeney, KS if not camping on-site. (2 RV hookups and multiple campsites for tents are available at the ranch).

1b. Your own transportation to and from WaKeeney (approx. 40 miles away) if staying in hotels.

2. Breakfast and bringing a sack lunch to the dig site each day.

3. Your own excavation pick, appropriate field-gear clothing, wide-brimmed hat for sun, etc.

4. There will be a per-person fee which will include a fee for excavation supplies, dinner at the ranch each night, and for the seminar lunch on Saturday. This fee varies from year to year, and is estimated to run approx \$950 per person this year. \$775 for parties with over 3 participants. Group or family discounts may be available, please contact for details.

NOTE: A PHOTO RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, HOLDING BOTH THE LAND OWNER AND DAVID RIVES MINISTRIES HARMLESS WILL BE REQUIRED OF EACH PARTICIPANT BEFORE PARTICIPATION BEGINS.

NOTES:

This is not a coordinated “tour” – it is an experience. We will not be able to coordinate travel arrangements or any details for you.

It is your responsibility to care for yourself and everyone in your party. It is your responsibility to reach the dig, which is 40 minutes down a dirt road from the nearest small town.

For those camping on-site, there are outhouses, running water, and electricity near the campsites. There is a small chapel nearby where we will be meeting for meals, fellowship in the evenings, and presentations, music, daily briefings.

We use a small atv/range vehicle to bring participants to the dig site from the campsite/chapel area.

You should bring breakfast/lunch food that is not perishable or that you can keep in a cooler with ice.

We want to make it clear that you should come prepared and stock up on supplies before arriving at the ranch:

The nearest store is 40 minutes away. The nearest medical is over 40 minutes away. The nearest gas station is 40 minutes away. The nearest food is 40 minutes away. Most cell phones only receive coverage around certain areas of the ranch. There will naturally be a little hiking on the ranch, and sometimes a site is on the side of a hill. Bring good hiking shoes.

If you are staying in a hotel, this should be a very comfortable trip for you. You will be in a small town (Wakeeney) and near all of these conveniences, but you will have a 40-minute commute to the ranch each morning and night. We suggest you stay in Wakeeney, as most of the roads are paved between this town and the ranch. There is a Best Western Plus & Econo Lodge. If the hotel offers breakfast, you will want to take advantage of that before heading to the ranch

each morning, but if that is not for you, you have the option of Subway, McDonalds, or a Dollar General.

Things to Bring:

- Wrap-around sunglasses and some lubricating eye-drops. With Kansas winds, the dust can be an issue occasionally. Sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat. Insect Repellent. Appropriate field-gear clothing. It could be very warm with cool mornings in September. Include a long-sleeved shirt and a fleece or jacket so you are not caught by surprise.
- An excavation pick, which could be as simple as a small hand-pick from a hardware store, or an excavation patiche. A cheap 5-pack of small paint-brushes from a hardware store or Walmart.
- AT LEAST one full case of bottled water per family.
- (We will be updating this list throughout the season.)
- Any musical instruments, hobbies, or that you might want to share with the group in the evenings.

IMPORTANT:

**THERE ARE THINGS WE
NEED TO KNOW right
away to proceed.**

**If you have any interest in
attending, fill out the form
found here:**

daviddrivesministries.org/dig_inquiry_form

**Submit this info ASAP as
space for these digs fills
quickly.**



PHOTOS FROM PAST
KANSAS DIGS AND
PALEONTOLOGICAL
FINDS OF THE AREA

