

Fossil Float & Camping Information

About the trip ~

Air out those sleeping bags, wash out the old cooler, and set up the tent to see if you have all the parts, then . . . come camp'n with us! Enjoy a weekend of fresh air, canoeing, camping, fellowship, and, of course, FOSSILS!

We will be camping by the Peace River, Zolfo Springs, Florida. Paleontologists know this area of Florida as "Bone Valley" because of the abundance and variety of fossils found there. We will canoe down the river stopping at secret locations to dig in the riverbed for fossil remains. Typical finds include fossils from mammoth, mastodon, horse, digging, tapir, glyptodont, deer, turtle, tortoise, alligator, whale, stingray, and six species of shark. *Sharks teeth are so plentiful that we guarantee you will find some.* Our goal on the fossil float is to help families develop life-long memories by experiencing adventure, play, and worship together.

Typical Agenda ~

Friday: Meet us on Friday afternoon at Pioneer Park in Zolfo Springs (intersection of 17 & 64 in Hardee County). Look for the sign that says "Creation Explorations, Inc." and set up on a nearby campsite. There are no campsite reservations allowed. The park management will stop by later to collect their fees (see below).

In the evening we will get to know each other as we talk around the campfire and enjoy s'mores*. A collection of fossils found in the Peace River will be on display. We highly recommend you take a few minutes and study these fossils. It will help you identify fossils during our float.

Saturday: At approximately 9 a.m. Saturday morning you will drive a short distance, park, and walk to the river. At the site, you will be issued fossil screens and shovels. Those who brought their own canoes can put in at this location. We will collect fossils by digging with a shovel in the riverbed and sifting the sand through a screen. Paddlers will continue down the river, stopping at a couple more locations, then exit the river at the campgrounds. We will spend the day on the river until approximately 5:00 p.m. Please prepare a sack lunch and/or snacks and plenty of water for the trip down river.

We will spend the evening reviewing the day's fossil finds and fellowship around the campfire, or you are welcome to venture out to one of the several restaurants within five miles of the campground.

Sunday: In the morning we will have an informal open-air worship service with music, testimonies, and a brief devotional. While some will go straight home, others may wish to walk to take our additional "mini trip".

* Note: Creation Explorations, Inc. supplies fossil screens, shovels, Friday night S'mores and fossil find interpretations.

About the Campground ~

Pioneer Park, located in Zolfo Springs, Florida at the intersection of 64 and US17.

Camp Fees: Reasonable campsites fees are:

- Primitive sites are \$10/night for two people
- Modern sites (w/water & electricity) are \$15/night for two people
- There is a \$2/person fee for each person thereafter
- Do not mail in payment for campsites. Pay Pioneer Park directly after you get there. The camp host will come around on Friday night or Saturday morning and collect the fees. Reminder: No campsites reservations are accepted.

Pioneer Park is a Hardee County owned and operated campground. There are hot showers available near where we will camp on a small lake. There is a small zoo where you can observe animals from a boardwalk and a museum showing local history. There is a \$1.00/person fee for each of these attractions.

Hotels Are Also Available ~

Best Western Heritage Inn (863) 773-2387

Colonial Arms (863) 773-9758

Tropicanna Motel (863) 773-3158

Things to Consider ~

1. There are sharp rocks in the riverbed. Foot protection is a must. We recommend aqua shoes sold at area discount stores for about \$6/pair, but an old pair of tennis shoes will do. We do not recommend any type of sandals.
2. Because of the physical demands of this trip, it is not recommended for children under the age of five.
3. ABSOLUTELY NO DOGS WILL BE ALLOWED. We love their company, but alligators find them tasty.
4. Legal collection of vertebrate fossils found on or under lands owned by the state of Florida, requires a permit. Creation Explorations, Inc. possesses the appropriate group permit. Acquisition of individual permits by fossil float participants are not necessary, but if you wish to collect independently, we can assist you in obtaining your own permit.

NO TENT? NO PROBLEM! - RENT ONE FROM US ~

We will set up and take down our tent for you. All tents are 10'x10' or larger. Cost is \$25 per tent per weekend. Campsite fees still apply. Please contact us to make arrangements if we can be of service to you in this way.

Please contact us if you have additional questions.

What to Bring ~

The following is a checklist of what we suggest you bring, but add to it what you may need.

<input type="checkbox"/> Tent (or make arrangements to rent one from us)	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit - we will be getting in the water!
<input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and pillows plus any ground pad / air mattress / cot that you desire	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses (with leash)
<input type="checkbox"/> Aqua shoes or old tennis shoes to wear in the river	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooler and ice
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn chairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight with good batteries
<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-closeable plastic bags - small and large sizes to keep items dry and carry your fossils in
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera and film
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacket / sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/> Hat
<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks / plenty of water and other beverages	<input type="checkbox"/> Food for breakfast Saturday and Sunday, food for lunch Saturday on the river
<input type="checkbox"/> Towels - we'll get wet, and some for bathing later!	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>