



Alberta Palaeontological Society 29th Annual Symposium

March 14–15, 2026

Paleo 2026

Circular



Contents

The Symposium	3
Venue.....	7
Information for Presenters.....	9
Abstract Guidelines.....	10
Lectures	13
Posters and Displays.....	14

Symposium Logo Design

The 2026 meeting logo (front cover) was designed by Keith Diakiw. It features a fish in lateral view with mountains, sky, and the text “Paleo 2026” in a circle. Thanks Keith!

Acknowledgements

The symposium is presented by the combined efforts of the following organizations. Thank you to everyone involved in making the annual symposium a success!

Alberta Palaeontological Society

Canadian Energy Geoscience Association Palaeontological Division

Mount Royal University Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences



The Symposium

The annual symposium of the Alberta Palaeontological Society (APS) is a two-day event with lectures, posters, showcase displays, and workshops presented by a mix of avocational and professional palaeontologists from all over Canada.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Symposium will be held in a virtual format and in person at Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, Alberta on March 14–15, 2026.

- **Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am – 4:45 pm:**
Lectures, posters, and displays (free)
- **Sunday, March 15, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm:**
Workshop 1: Early Vertebrate Fossil Identification and Anatomy – what does it tell us about our own evolution? (registration required)
- **Sunday, March 15, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm:**
Workshop 2: Microvertebrate Fish Fossil Identification and Interpretation to Reconstruct Faunal and Environmental Changes (registration required)

There will be fossil displays and activities for a wide audience, including families with children. We encourage families to bring fossils to our identification booth.

Advertising for the event will go out to news media, the Canadian Energy Geoscience Association's *Reservoir*, and the APS website.

Registration

Saturday programs are free and open to the general public; no registration is required to attend. For those interested in presenting a poster or display, see **Information for Presenters**. There is no fee to submit an abstract or to request space for a poster or display.

Sunday workshop participants are required to register and pay a fee to attend due to limited space. Two workshops are being offered as part of Paleo 2026. There is a minimum age requirement for attendees. For more information, please see **Workshops**.

About the Alberta Palaeontological Society (APS)

The Alberta Palaeontological Society is a non-profit society whose purpose is to promote the science of palaeontology through study and education and make contributions to the science through discovery, collection, description, public education, and preservation of material for study and posterity. The APS works with professionals at museums and universities to add to Alberta's palaeontological collections and preserve its heritage.

APS meetings are generally held on the third Friday of each month at Mount Royal University. Visit our website at albertapaleo.org for info!

2026 Organizing Committee (Contacts)

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Speaker Schedule

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Jenkins Theatre, Main Building Level 1 (lower level), Mount Royal University

9:00 am – 9:15 am	Opening Statements Cory Gross, APS President Symposium Introduction Mona Trick, APS Symposium Chair
9:15 am – 10:15 am	Tracing Faunal and Environmental Changes Through Time: The Palaeontological Power of Fish Microvertebrate Fossils Dr. Julien Divay, Palaeoichthyologist, Hon. Research Associate, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Coffee break
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Fishes in a Suit of Armour - The Story of Placoderms, One of Our Oldest Jawed Relatives Dr. Melina Jobbins, Palaeobiologist, University of Manitoba
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	The Impact of Heavy Industry on Significant Discoveries of Fossil Marine Reptiles in Alberta Darren H. Tanke, Senior Technician II, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch break
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	The Driftwood Canyon Fossil Beds, Smithers, Northern British Columbia - An Amazing Well-Preserved and Highly Diverse Eocene-age Terrestrial Paleoeecology Tako Koning, P. Geol, Senior Geologist - Consultant
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Left Behind: Previously Unrecognized Trace Fossils with Stories to Tell Dr. Jon Noad, Stantec Consulting; University of Adelaide
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Posters & Displays Breakout Session and coffee break <i>Poster presenters are requested to be with their posters</i>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Alberta's Paleocene Insects: New Insights from a Fossil Legacy Kano Sasaguchi, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Three-Horned Faceoff: A Tale of Canadian <i>Triceratops</i> and Why They Matter Dr. Emily Bamforth, Curator, Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Hope Johnson Award Presentation Mona Trick, APS Symposium Chair
4:45 pm	Closing Remarks for Paleo 2026 Mona Trick, APS Symposium Chair

Workshops

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Room B140, Main Building Level 1 (lower level), Mount Royal University

Two workshops are being offered as part of Paleo 2026. Registration is limited to 20 participants per workshop, so register early! The Workshop Registration Form contains complete details and can be found on the symposium page at <https://albertapaleo.org/events/symposium>.

See below for a description and suggested items for each workshop. Please note the following:

- **Minimum age:** 12 years old as of March 15, 2026
- **Fee:** \$10.00 per person, per workshop (no GST charged)

The deadline for workshop registration is March 6, 2026.

Workshop 1: Early Vertebrate Fossil Identification and Anatomy – what does it tell us about our own evolution?

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Presenter

Dr. Melina Jobbins

Palaeobiologist, Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Manitoba

Description

Early vertebrates consist of the first vertebrate groups to have evolved in life's history. They include fossil armoured jawless and jawed fishes, as well as bony and cartilaginous fishes that lived from the Ordovician to the end of the Devonian primarily. Together, these groups are witnesses to the early steps in vertebrate evolution, including the origin of bone, a differentiated skeleton with fins, jaws and teeth, and the transition from water to land through adaptations like lungs and limbs. All these steps were key contributors to the success of this group, allowing vertebrates to rapidly diversify their diets and feeding strategies, colonize new environments, and fill new ecological niches. By doing so, they flourished rapidly soon after their origin to, further down the line, give rise to amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals like us. Thus, learning about early vertebrates allows us to understand more about our own origins and early evolution.

In this workshop, participants will:

1. Get an introduction to the different early vertebrate groups,
2. Get hands-on experience with specimens (fossils & 3D prints) and comparative material,
3. Learn identification tools related to the material at hand and discuss their advantages vs limitations for both the given material and overall, and
4. Learn how the mode of preservation affects the amount of knowledge that can be extracted from a fossil.

Suggested items to bring

- Preferred means for taking pictures of fossils
- Microscopes may also be used so also think of your preferred means for taking pictures through a microscope lens
- Notepad and pen/pencil for taking notes and making sketches

Workshop 2: Microvertebrate Fish Fossil Identification and Interpretation to Reconstruct Faunal and Environmental Changes

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Presenter

Dr. Julien Divay

Palaeoichthyologist, Hon. Research Associate
Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

Description

Fish microvertebrate fossils—including teeth, scales, and bone fragments—are valuable tools in palaeontological and geological research that are often abundant in sedimentary basins. They represent the best evidence of the past diversity of local faunas, enabling us to reconstruct aquatic ecosystems, time turnover events, track evolutionary changes, and time phylogenetic divergences in fish lineages. Their abundance and diversity also make them excellent sources of palaeobiogeographic information, useful for determining hydrological connections between drainage basins and for dating dispersal events. Additionally, local fish diversities can indicate past environmental conditions such as water temperature, salinity, and habitat type. Thus, fish microvertebrate fossils provide crucial insights into palaeoecology, palaeoclimate, and the geological history of aquatic environments.

In this workshop, participants will:

1. Get hands-on experience with specimens and comparative material,
2. Learn and discuss identification features and techniques as well as the particular challenges represented by working with this material,
3. Learn field and lab methods used to collect and prepare this material,
4. Learn how to document morphologies appropriately,
5. Learn methods used to interpret and compare assemblages, and
6. Learn about future potential avenues for this research.

Suggested items to bring

- Microvertebrate fossil-sorting equipment – e.g., picks, tweezers, fine paint brushes, etc. (however, tweezers can be provided for you, if desired)
- Notepad and pen/pencil for taking notes and making sketches
- Your favourite means of taking pictures of specimens through a microscope lens

Venue

All events will take place in the Main Building. Posters and displays will be presented in the **main hallway on Level 1 (lower level)** outside the Cougars Campus Store. Lectures will be presented nearby in the **Jenkins Theatre**, located in F Wing via a hallway next to the Cougars Campus Store. Workshops will take place in **Room B140**, located at the far end of the hallway in B Wing on Level 1 (lower level). See the **Map** or visit the MRU website for detailed campus maps at www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/CampusesTours/CampusLocations/campus-map.htm.

Food services

A food court is located in Wyckham House, accessible from the Main Building via a hallway on Level 2. Vendors may be limited and have reduced hours during the weekend. See hours at <https://www.mtroyal.ca/CampusServices/CampusResources/FoodServices/index.htm>.

Parking

Most lots offer visitor parking during the symposium. We recommend **Lot 2**, a surface lot near the West Gate entrance, due to ease of access, proximity to the entrance, and a pay station located just inside the entrance (see the **Map**). Alternatively, find covered parking in the **East Gate Parkade**. Your license plate number is required for payment. You do not need to display the receipt in your vehicle.

Visitor rates (GST included)

Effective Sept. 1, 2025

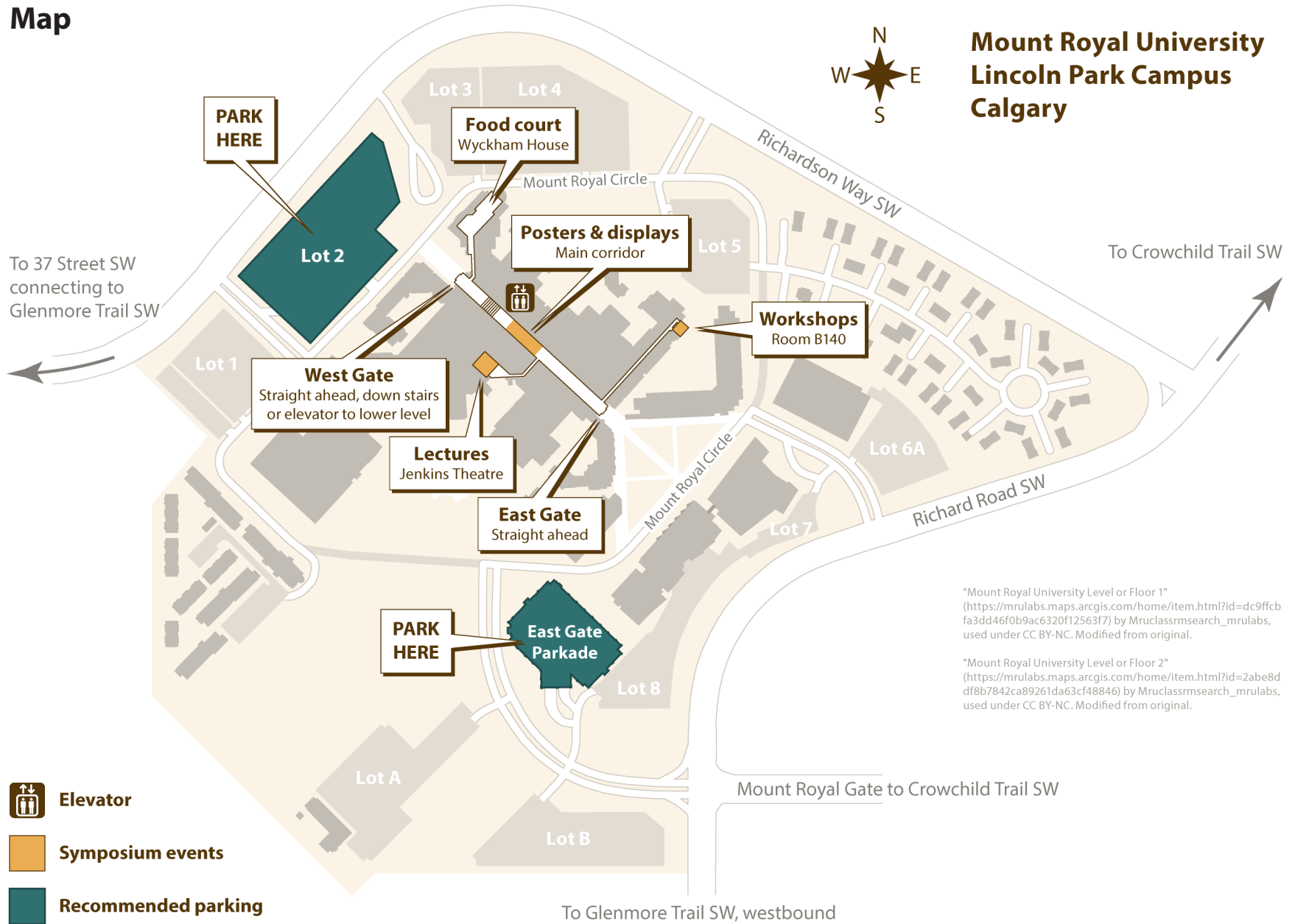
Nearest entrance	Lot	Weekend rate	Sunday rate
West Gate	Lots 1, 2, 3, 4	\$5.25/hr (\$8.40 max)	Free
	Lots 5, 6A, 7, 8	\$5.25/hr (\$8.40 max)	Free
East Gate	East Gate Parkade	\$5.25/hr (\$8.40 max)	Free
	Lots A, B	\$8.40 flat rate	Free

Payment options

- Use the HotSpot app (available from the Apple Store or Google Play Store)
- Scan the QR code (each parking lot has signage; this is a pay-per-use option and may be subject to a small transaction fee)
- Use a pay station (accepts coins, Visa, or Mastercard) located at the West Gate Entrance, East Gate Parkade (P2 lobby), Lot 6A, Lot 7, Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, Lot A, and the Recreation Entrance

For further details on visitor rates, parking maps, and payment options, visit the MRU website at www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/TransportationParking/Paying-for-Parking.htm.

Map



Information for Presenters

Submission Deadline and Requirements

Presenters are required to submit the following materials depending on presentation category.

The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2026.

Lecture presenters

- Must submit an abstract or short paper to the Editor at editor2@albertapaleo.org
- Notify us about your preferences for broadcasting and/or recording your talk
- See **Abstract Guidelines** and **Lectures**

Poster presenters

- Must submit a request for space, along with an abstract or short paper, to **both** the Posters & Displays Coordinator at posters@albertapaleo.org and the Editor at editor2@albertapaleo.org
- Notify us of any special requirements or additional requests
- See **Abstract Guidelines** and **Posters and Displays**

Display presenters

- Must submit a request for space to **both** the Posters & Displays Coordinator at posters@albertapaleo.org and the Editor at editor2@albertapaleo.org
- Notify us of any special requirements or additional requests
- See **Posters and Displays**
- May optionally submit an abstract or short paper to both contacts above
 - If choosing to do so, also see **Abstract Guidelines**

Audience and Other Information

Specific invitations have been given to staff and students of universities, natural history clubs, the Geological Survey of Canada, museums, and members of the petroleum industry. The aim is to showcase palaeontology to the general public and foster closer relations between the APS and the above groups. Your audience will range from members of the public to avocational and professional palaeontologists. Please consider this when preparing your presentation.

A limited number of fossil display cabinets are available upon request to any presenter. Please see **Display Cases** for details.

Thank you for your contribution to our symposium!

Abstract Guidelines

General Information

The preferred method for submission of abstracts or short papers is **electronically, via e-mail**. Printed submissions (including text and illustrations) will be accepted. All materials submitted will be returned to the author on request.

E-mail all files to: editor2@albertapaleo.org
The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2026.

All submissions will be acknowledged. If you don't receive acknowledgement of your submission **within 1 week, please contact the Editor!** A prepress proof will be e-mailed to the author in PDF format.

Authors should include name and address information, in the following format:

Jane Doe
Associate Professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences
University of Calgary
5555 University Avenue
Calgary, AB Canada A5A 5A5
E-mail: jdoe@inetprovider.com

Abstract Volume

As in past years, an attractive symposium abstracts volume will be published and sold at a price to cover publication costs.

Abstracts or short papers may be **any length**. Submissions will be edited for design and typographical concerns only (fonts, punctuation, spelling, spacing, layout, etc.). The Editor will **not** change any intellectual/literary content without prior consent of the author but will be reformatted and styled to fit the volume.

We encourage illustrations and photos! Please note that the volume will be printed in black and white, so images will be converted to greyscale by the Editor. Ensure that any figures you include will reproduce clearly in greyscale.

Text Formats

Abstract text may be submitted as an e-mail attachment in MS Word, RTF, or plain text. You may also send plain text pasted directly into the body of an e-mail message. Please be aware that text will be reformatted for the abstracts volume, so you need not concern yourself with fonts, line spacing, styles, margins, etc.

Files from page layout or presentation applications saved in their native formats (Microsoft Publisher, PowerPoint, Keynote, Pages, Quark XPress, InDesign) or markup code (LaTeX) are **not acceptable**.

PDF files are OK, but **read the following:**



Please **do not** send text or Word files with embedded illustrations. Send your text and illustrations as **separate files**.

Please **do not** send PowerPoint files. If you want to use text from PowerPoint slides in your abstract, use the “Save As” command to save as RTF files, or simply copy and paste the text into Word, WordPad, etc.

Please use your last name for file attachments (e.g., “Smith.docx”, “Smith_fig4.jpg”).

Illustrations

The abstracts volume will be printed on 8.5” x 11” (letter size) paper. Thus, **all illustrations should fit within a 6.5” x 9.0” rectangle** (vertical or horizontal orientation) to allow for 1” page margins. Material larger than this will be cropped, reduced, or divided across more than one page, at the discretion of the Editor. **The volume will be printed in black-and-white/greyscale:** Colour illustrations are welcome, but they will be converted to B&W or greyscale.

Image files may be submitted in the following common file formats:

- BMP (.bmp)
- GIF (.gif)
- JPEG (.jpg)
- Photoshop (.psd)
- PNG (.png)
- TIFF (.tif)
- EPS (.eps)
- Illustrator (.ai)



Please **do not** send PowerPoint files. If you want to use illustrations from PowerPoint slides in your abstract, use the “Save As” command to save your images in an acceptable format (JPEG, TIFF, PNG, GIF, BMP).

Halftone art (photos, diagrams with greys or colours)

This includes photos or diagrams with greys or colours. The Editor can perform some minor photo retouching (dust specks, scratches, contrast, cropping); if this is desired, please send the file in TIFF or Photoshop format. The image resolution must be **200 ppi (pixels per inch) minimum**.

Line art

This includes diagrams, charts, maps, tables, pen-and-ink drawings, etc. that contain only pure black and pure white. If the illustration has heavy lines and large or no text, the image resolution must be **300 ppi (pixels per inch) minimum**. If it contains fine lines, fine detail, or small text, the image resolution must be **600 ppi minimum**. If in doubt, use **600 ppi**.

Printed/Paper Submissions

Non-electronic submissions will be accepted for publication if received by the submission deadline. These include printed or typewritten text or art suitable for scanning. Hardcopy illustrations must be in the form of original photos or drawings. All material will be returned to the author on request.



Photocopied illustrations will not reproduce acceptably.

Questions?

If you have any questions or special requests, please contact the Editor:

Matthew Rhodes

Editor

Alberta Palaeontological Society

editor2@albertapaleo.org (send all files/abstracts to this address)

Phone: (403) 336-0554

Lectures

Length and Format

Presentations are scheduled for lengths of either 20 or 50 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions and to change to the next speaker. You can present using either a **PowerPoint or PDF file**. If you plan to present using PowerPoint, **also bring a PDF copy** (just in case our PowerPoint version is not compatible). Your audience will range from members of the public (including families with young children) to avocational and professional palaeontologists. Please consider this when preparing your presentation.

For all speakers, please remember to submit an abstract for your talk. See **Abstract Guidelines** for details.

The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2026.

Loading Presentations

Either e-mail your presentation at least 1 day in advance (by March 13, 2026) to the Symposium Chair (symposium@albertapaleo.org) or bring your presentation on a USB stick to Jenkins Theatre. Morning presenters are requested to load their presentations before the first talk of the day (i.e., 8:30 am – 8:55 am). Afternoon presenters can wait until the lunch break before the start of the afternoon session (12:00 pm – 12:55 pm).

Recording and Broadcasting

Paleo 2026 will be a hybrid meeting with live and virtual speakers and audience members. The symposium will be broadcast using the APS Zoom Pro account to those that receive the link. Prior to the symposium, you will receive an email from the Technology & Website contact (eric.campbell@albertapaleo.org) with a form to indicate which of the following options you have chosen for your presentation:

1. Broadcast via Zoom **and** record my presentation
 - The talk will be uploaded to the APS YouTube channel for the general public to view anytime without cost at <https://youtube.com/@albertapaleo>
2. Broadcast via Zoom but do **not** record my presentation
3. Do **not** broadcast or share on the internet at all

Promotion

To promote Paleo 2026, we will be contacting local radio and TV stations. Let the Symposium Chair (symposium@albertapaleo.org) know if you would like to be interviewed and provide when you are available and your cell phone number.

Posters and Displays

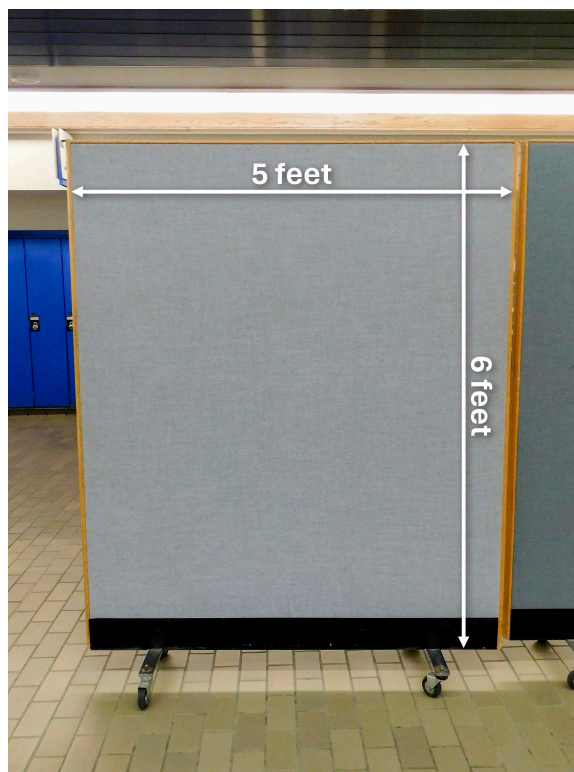
General Information

A 5' wide by 6' high display panel will be supplied to each presenter (see image to right). Those with special requirements are asked to identify these requirements when submitting a request for space (see **Information for Presenters**). Please notify the Posters & Displays Coordinator if you will need any of the following:

- Tables (8' by 4')
- Chairs
- Electricity (e.g., to operate a display)
- Additional display stands (e.g., for multiple or oversize posters)
- A larger display area
- Display cases (see **Display Cases**)

Contact the Posters & Displays Coordinator at posters@albertapaleo.org if you have any questions or additional requirements.

For displays that wish to and for **all posters**, please remember to submit an abstract for your presentation. See **Abstract Guidelines** for details.



Display panel dimensions.

The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2026.

Event Day Information

- Please set up your poster or display by 8:30 am on Saturday, March 14
- Bring mounting materials such as Velcro fasteners (recommended), push pins, or tape, if possible
 - A limited supply will be provided but we strongly encourage presenters to provide their own materials to avoid issues
- Be available at your poster or display at least during the Posters & Displays Breakout Session from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm for discussion about your exhibit

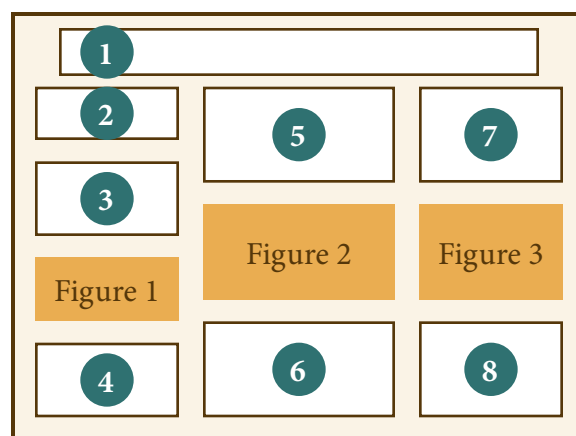
Poster Guidelines

Any topic related to palaeontology can be considered for a poster. An effective written presentation is a poster presentation; both are mechanisms to convey past and recent developments in a field of study essential to the investigator. Anyone interested in sharing their work and receiving audience feedback should consider doing a poster.

The size and dimensions of a poster can vary. It can consist of individual letter size sheets to large format printing. It contains text and figures relevant to one's work. It follows the same pattern as any scientific article that appears in a journal.

One typical format

1. Title, author(s) and affiliation(s)
2. Abstract—summary and key findings
3. Introduction—background and purpose of investigation
4. General information/methods
5. Geographic and stratigraphic location of the fossils/results
6. Description and interpretation
7. Conclusions
8. Acknowledgements and references



Example poster format.

Making the poster

Dedicate a box to each one of the above categories. Within each box, include the text and figures relevant to that category. Order or number the boxes in such a way that the reader can follow from one box to the other in a sequence the presenter wishes. The structure of the above framework may change from topic to topic.

Posters can be made manually or digitally. Drafting a poster by hand involves some manual labour but does not require computer access. Creating a poster on a computer can be done entirely with graphics and word processing software, open-source alternatives, or online graphic design websites. Either way, when designing a poster, think visually; use graphics and visuals to tell your story, supported by clear and concise text where needed.

Other considerations

A poster is typically viewed from 1–2 metres away—therefore the letter (or font) size must be large enough that the text can be easily read. Think about when the eye doctor wants you to read off the letter chart from a distance. Body text should be minimum 24 pt, headings slightly larger, and the main title clear from a reasonable distance.

Also, figures should be reasonably large to show necessary details. Use colours purposefully. Adding colours makes a difference to the poster and can, in fact, lure attendees to your poster when used wisely, or drive them away when used haphazardly.

Display Cases

A limited number of fossil display cabinets are available upon request. They are made of wood with a glass top and foam core liners. The display cases come in three sizes. The measurements (all internal dimensions) are listed in the table and shown in the image below.

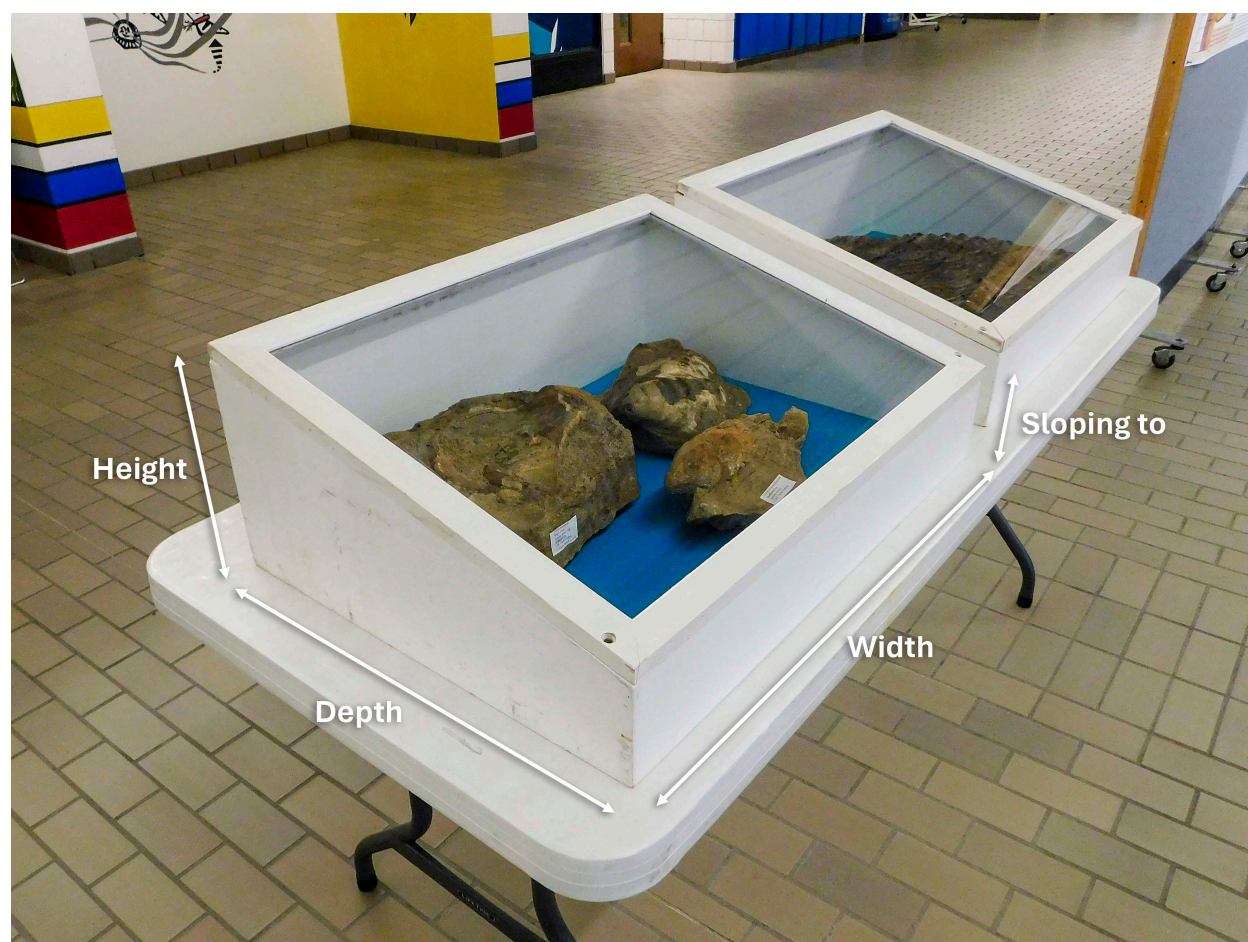
Please include requests for fossil display cabinets to the Posters & Displays Coordinator at posters@albertapaleo.org by the submission deadline.

The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2026.

Display case dimensions

Size	Width	Depth	Height	Sloping to
Small	27 ¼"	19 ¼"	7 ¾"	2 ¾"
Medium	28 ¾"	20 ¾"	10 ½"	4 ¼"
Large	30 ⅝"	22 ⅝"	11"	5 ½"

All measurements in inches. All internal dimensions.



Display case dimensions.