

Western Texas College Volunteers

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Lubbock Lake Landmark Regional Research Program Roland Springs Ranch Locality 1 Field Season First Information Guide June 2010

Research at Roland Springs Ranch (RSR) primarily involves the disciplines of vertebrate paleontology and geology. Participants are introduced to these disciplines both in field and lab work. Please keep in mind that this is a field program and not a field school. Please arrive at the RSR camp by June 1. Volunteers are required to participate full-time for the entire month. Your joining the field crew is a commitment to stay for the entire period.

Dr. Eileen Johnson directs the regional research work at the RSR research station. She generally oversees the excavation and camp logistics and also visits the other regional research locations on a frequent basis. Her responsibilities and duties, however, are split between the Museum of Texas Tech University, Landmark Lake Landmark, and the regional research program. Volunteers are supervised directly by John Moretti (Research Aide), the assigned Senior Crew Chief who is responsible for the day-to-day field and lab operations at the RSR research station. When on-site to observe progress, any problems are discussed, as well as instructions and guidance given.

The work day is from 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Work is in blocks of 10 to 12 days with 2 to 4 days off in between. During days off, the field camp is closed down, with no one remaining in camp. WTC volunteers may return home or take advantage of other opportunities. In addition to excavation and lab work, all crew members are assigned cooking and kitchen duties and other camp chores. Field funds are limited, so while we strive to provide a balanced and nutritious menu and accommodate vegetarian diets, certain items such as milk are provided at only one meal a day. Vegan diets cannot be accommodated at this time. Meals include breakfast, mid-morning snack, lunch, mid-afternoon snack, and dinner.

A single-wide mobile home is available at the RSR field camp. The 2-bedroom, 1 bath home is partially furnished, air-conditioned, and has hot and cold running water and laundry facilities. A sleeping porch and a dining area are being added. Crew members sleep on bunkbeds in the bedrooms and sleeping porch, and on two sofas in the living room. The old dining room functions as the clean field lab. Meals are eaten in the new dining area. All health and food safety rules of the Landmark and Texas Tech University apply to the kitchen and other facilities in the RSR field camp. All other rules and policies of the Landmark and Texas Tech University apply as well, such as no alcohol anywhere on the RSR property and no smoking in the buildings or at the excavation area.

WTC students can make alternate housing arrangements on the WTC campus. The dorms are available during the summer, with a daily charge of \$19 or weekly charge of \$129. Some campus apartments may be available at a slightly higher rate. The volunteer would be responsible for covering the cost. Meals would be served in camp. WTC students interested in campus housing during the RSR field season should contact Ralph Ramon, Dean of Student

Services at rramon@wtc.edu or 325-573-8511. The housing website is:
<http://www.wtc.edu/housing/index.html>.

The following is a list of required equipment. These items can be purchased as a kit for \$45 US if you cannot locate the material before you come. Items in the kit purchased from the Lubbock Lake Landmark cannot be purchased separately nor borrowed for the summer. You must have these items before you can participate in the fieldwork. If you do not want to purchase a kit, these items may be found in Snyder or Sweetwater and can be found in Lubbock at various stores.

1. Mason's pointed trowel (e.g., Marshalltown or W.H.S. brand), 3-5" (maximum length); a square trowel of the same brand and size can be useful at times also. Please note that a gardening-type trowel is not acceptable!
2. K and E, Lufkin, or Stanley brand 3-meter retractable tape measure (only the metric system is used at the RSR research station).
3. 2-4 black permanent ink pens.
4. 4-6 #2.5 (or HB) black lead pencils with erasers.
5. Clipboard.
6. 30cm ruler (12" ruler also marked in cm acceptable).
7. 3-5 paint brushes of varying sizes.
8. Assorted small wooden and/or bamboo tools and picks (metal picks are not used as they can damage the bones).

The following are some personal items you need to bring along:

1. Sleeping bag or blankets (nights can get down to 40° -45°F)
2. Field clothes, including hat, jackets, jeans, work gloves, sturdy work shoes, poncho for rain
3. Towels and toiletries
4. Personal medication

The following are some personal items you may wish to bring along:

1. Flashlight and batteries, radio, headphones, and batteries
2. Sunglasses, sun lotion, insect repellent
3. First Aid kit (general kit available at excavation and in camp)

Upon provisional acceptance, certain health requirements are necessary before a volunteer receives final confirmation of acceptance and is allowed to join the summer crew.

1. The volunteer must carry his/her own health and accident insurance for the duration of the field season;
2. The volunteer must have a current tetanus shot.
3. The volunteer must have current physical medical exam.

PROOF OF THESE MUST BE SENT TO DR. JOHNSON BEFORE ARRIVAL AT THE RSR RESEARCH STATION OR YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM OR ALLOWED INTO CAMP AT THE RSR RESEARCH STATION.

To reach Dr. Johnson between September and early May, either e-mail (eileen.johnson@ttu.edu) or telephone her Museum office at 806-742-2481. It is answered 8:00AM to 5:00PM Central Time Monday through Friday and has an answering machine for call-backs.