

For Teachers



New Names and Old Favorites

We here at the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum hope this finds you relaxing somewhere lovely. Here are a few updates and upcoming events to keep in mind for the Fall. First and foremost, we're excited to announce that we are now the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum. Our hope is to better convey the entire experience here at Rancho La Brea, connecting inside and out, the fossils and the pits. But never fear, our amazing collection of fossils on display hasn't changed, you'll still be able to see your favorite dire wolves, saber-toothed cats, and mammoths.

In addition to the tried and true, I want to highlight a best kept secret here at the Tar Pits—bugs! We have a guided program for 6-12th grade that gets students doing hands on science in our Pleistocene Garden and learning about the smallest survivors of the Ice Age: insects. This program will be offered Monday through Friday between October and February, and due to it's interactive nature, it accommodates smaller groups, so sign up early!

Speaking of signing up, you can learn about all of our programs and learn how to book your perfect field trip at our annual Educator Open House on September 12 from 9 am to 1 pm. Whether you're a new friend or an old faithful, we hope to see you soon.

Molly Porter
Manager, School and Teacher Programs

Looking Back, Looking Forward

We have to admit, summertime always makes us feel a bit nostalgic. It's only been a few weeks, but we already miss seeing school buses pull up at the Museum. We miss the stunned silence of students gazing down into one of our excavation pits, or up at our 13-foot-tall Columbian mammoth. But reminiscing about last year is getting us even more excited for the school year to come! Before August creeps up on you, there are a few things to know.

First, the logistics! Booking for the 2015-2016 school year opens on August 15. This is the earliest that you'll be able to request a field trip for next year. And don't forget your add-ons! Guided Programs (October-February), Ice Age Encounters (September-June) and the Observation Pit (March-May) all require a free, add-on reservation to your field trip. Check out www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/programs-and-exhibits for more information on these exclusive opportunities.

And now, some exciting news...we added a brand new film experience at the Tar Pits! *Titans of the Ice Age*, a new 25 minute film, explores the late Pleistocene and some of its most iconic creatures, as well as geologic change and the unique process of paleontology at Rancho La Brea. *Titans of the Ice Age* is available for schools September through May, and **requires advanced reservations March through May**.

A new year means new opportunities. We can't wait to see you in the fall!

Kelsey Ziff
Coordinator, School Programs



Just one of the many friendly faces you'll see on our new signs as you explore the Tar Pits with your students next school year!

This Month's Issue:

New Names and Old Favorites

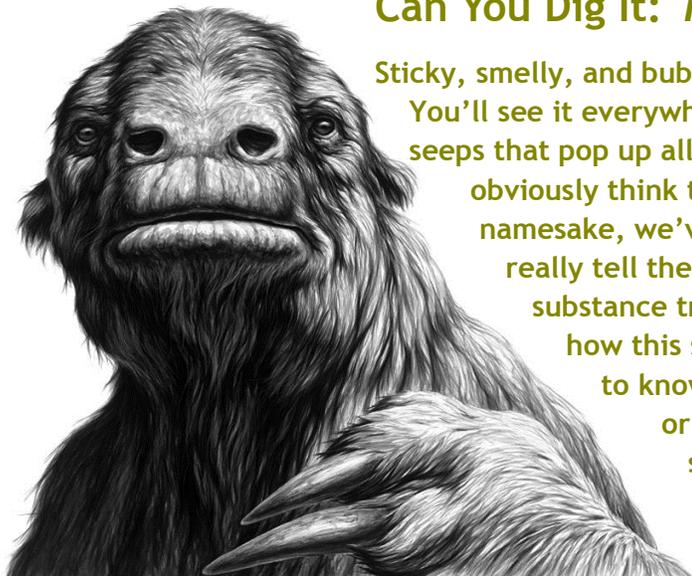
Looking Back, Looking Forward

Can You Dig It:
The Tar Pits!

Upcoming Opportunities

Titans of the Ice Age

Can You Dig It: *The Tar Pits!*



Sticky, smelly, and bubbly, asphalt is the real star of the show here at La Brea. You'll see it everywhere-- from the massive Lake Pit to the tiny asphalt seeps that pop up all over the Park. Being the Tar Pits Museum, we obviously think the ooze is pretty great. To show our love for our namesake, we've installed brand new signs all over the Park that really tell the story of the Pits. Want to learn how this black, gooey substance trapped ancient animals and preserved their bones, or how this site tells L.A.'s amazing geologic story? Maybe you want to know more about how the first fossils were discovered here, or the paleontological work we're doing today. All the new signs have really turned the Park into an engaging outdoor exhibit for you to explore with your students next year!

Fast Fact! >

You won't find any tar at the Tar Pits. That stuff seeping out of the ground is asphalt, naturally occurring oil mixed with sediment. Spanish explorers passing through this area called it "la brea" or "tar" and the name just stuck. True story. Awful pun.



Upcoming Opportunities

At the Natural History Museum:

Mummies: New Secrets from the Tombs

Saturday, August 1, 9 am - 1 pm

Get ready for our exciting new temporary exhibition, *Mummies: New Secrets from the Tombs*, by attending this workshop. Learn about Egyptian and Peruvian cultures and get priority booking for exhibit tours, which begin September 21 for your students. Register at www.nhm.org/site/for-teachers/professional-development.

At the Tar Pits:

Educator Open House

Saturday, September 12, 9 am - 1 pm

Join us to celebrate the start of a new school year! You'll learn about all of the amazing opportunities at the Tar Pits for teachers and students, experience some of our onsite school programs, and even have the chance to leave with some fantastic prizes! No prior registration is required.

Titans of the Ice Age

Be among the first to experience *Titans of the Ice Age* for free with your students next year! *Titans* is available for schools Monday - Thursday mornings, and **requires an advanced reservation if you'd like to see it in March, April, or May.**



Watch a trailer of this new film at www.tarpits.org/3d-theater. Spoiler alert: *Titans* is free for schools, but it's in 2D. And the mammoth goes extinct at the end.

How to Book!

Go to www.tarpits.org/for-teachers and click on the *Field Trips* link for step-by-step instructions on how to plan your day and submit a field trip request!