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BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE ACCEPTING VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS FOR PALEONTOLOGICAL DIG

Annual summer Ice Age excavation scheduled for July and August 2008

BUFFALO (June 2, 2008) – The Buffalo Museum of Science is currently taking volunteer applications for its **summer 2008 paleontological field season** at which participants ages 13 and up contribute to the search for ancient bones and artifacts at the museum's Hiscock site in Byron, New York. The season runs from July 19 through August 9, and volunteers can sign up for as few or as many dates as they wish -- commitments must be to full days from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

This will be the 26th consecutive field season at what has proven to be one of the richest and most important Ice Age sites in North America. It has yielded thousands of bones left by the animals that have inhabited the region over the past 13,000 years. It has also yielded tools reflecting the changing human cultures over that period.

Participants are expected to honor their time commitments and to follow instructions, for their own safety and for the welfare of the project. This applies both while digging and while in camp. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a legally responsible adult, and no one under 13 can participate. No pets are allowed. Volunteers must provide their own living equipment, including tent and transportation to and from the site. Trailers and campers are not allowed in the Hiscock site. A fee of approximately \$16 per day will be charged each person for food (with a discount for families).

Volunteer applicants must be in good health and able to negotiate uneven ground and must be at least 13 years old. Persons under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or a legally responsible adult. Volunteer tasks may include dishwashing and anything necessary to maintain a community in the field.

Volunteers are asked to prepare for primitive conditions (waterproof boots are mandatory), and to be sure their inoculations are current, especially tetanus. Volunteers will receive detailed instructions on equipment and other things they will need by late June. There will be an orientation at the Museum on Tuesday evening, July 15th that participants are expected to attend if at all possible.

Applications can be accessed at www.buffalomuseumofscience.org and questions may be directed to the dig organizer, Richard Laub, at (716) 896-5200 ext. 368 or rlaub@sciencebuff.org.

The Buffalo Museum of Science is the non-profit educational institution dedicated to the study and interpretation of the natural and physical sciences. Its extensive collections of over 600,000 specimens and artifacts represent all facets of the natural world with an emphasis on Western New York as well as man-made objects spanning the globe. Based at 1020 Humboldt Parkway and anchoring Buffalo's East Side in Olmsted-designed Martin Luther King, Jr. Park since 1929, the Museum presents a wide variety of programs and services for children, teachers, families, adults, and community organizations throughout each year. General admission to the Museum is \$7 adults; \$6 seniors (age 62+); \$5 students and children over 3; and free for members and children under 3. The Museum also operates Tift Nature Preserve in South Buffalo, a 264-acre urban wetland preserve on reclaimed former industrial land; The Elmwood Science Spot, a satellite studio of the Buffalo Museum of Science located in the heart of the Elmwood Village; and seasonally sponsors archaeological exploration at the Hiscock Site in nearby Genesee County, NY, one of North America's richest Ice Age sites.

For further information on the Museum and its upcoming activities, call 716-896-5200 or visit www.buffalomuseumofscience.org.