

Niobrara County Dig Project

Information Packet

Location: Niobrara County, Wyoming

Dates: April 16 - 30, 2023

(arrive on April 16 and start work on April 17)



Maranatha Volunteers International is a nonprofit, Christian organization focused on providing churches, schools, and water wells around the world. A portion of the projects utilize volunteers on short-term mission trips to complete the work. Annually, we mobilize more than 2,000 volunteers to assist with various service opportunities and partner with thousands of donors to fundraise for international projects. Maranatha's mission is to spread the Gospel throughout the world as we support people through the construction of urgently-needed buildings.

In North America, Maranatha aids by recruiting and organizing volunteer labor for construction and renovations projects at schools, churches, and camps.

The Niobrara County (WY) Dig Project is one of our many efforts based in North America.

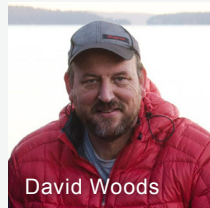
Project Overview

On this project, volunteers will help with the exterior trim and internal wall coverings with plywood. We are only accepting volunteers with carpenter skills (couples welcomed) due to extremely limited housing.

Leadership

Project Coordinator: David Woods

Construction Superintendent: David Woods



David Woods

Accommodations

There is space for a very limited number of volunteers on this project. Volunteers who request housing will stay in a guest house where there are 9 beds. There is space for RV's as well.

Expenses

The only costs to volunteers are the travel expenses to and from the Dig Project. Three vegetarian meals a day, accident insurance, and local housing are provided in exchange for your volunteer labor.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Maranatha provides three vegetarian meals each day. We ask for your allergies on your registration form, and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. However, we cannot meet all special requests. If your diet is restrictive (vegan, gluten-free, etc.) we recommend that you bring items such as soy milk powder, gluten-free bread, etc. to supplement the meals provided by the cooks.

Project Schedule

Sunday, April 16
Arrival at work site

Monday-Friday, April 17-21
Orientation and work days

Saturday, April 22
Sabbath

Sunday-Friday, April 23-28
Work days

Saturday, April 29
Sabbath

Sunday, April 30
Departure

About Wyoming

Attractions

There are a few surrounding cities that may be of interest to visit: Cheyenne, Gillette, Laramie, and Casper. South Dakota borders Wyoming and a few cities that might be of interest there are: Rapid City, Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hills region, Sturgis and Spearfish.

Volunteers may choose to arrive early or leave a few days after the project concludes in order to appreciate local sights and activities. Volunteers are responsible for making their own arrangements, including food and lodging, for all days outside of the project dates.

Weather

Average temperatures during April are in the mid 50's to the low 30's Fahrenheit but plan for just about any type of weather. It can be cloudy, so pack rain gear and a warm jacket. Of course, current weather conditions can change at any time, so we recommend that you check the 10-day forecast before leaving to ensure that you are prepared for the most current weather conditions in Niobrara County in Wyoming.

Travel Information

Flights

There are no project hosts present for this remote project and no one to pick up volunteers. If you fly in to Rapid City, SD, the nearest airport, you will need to arrange your own transportation to get to and from the project site.

AIG Insurance Coverage

Maranatha mission projects are construction projects where people can get hurt. It is not possible for Maranatha to analyze everyone's insurance policy to see whether his or her insurance is current and the coverage is in effect at the location of the project. The Maranatha Board of Directors decided that the safest route was to require everyone to be covered by the insurance coverage through Maranatha's carrier. For projects taking place in North America, the cost of this is covered by the hosting organization.

All volunteers will be covered by this insurance policy from the time they depart for the project until they return home. For volunteers who have extended travel by arriving before or staying after a project, the insurance would start and end on the Maranatha project dates based on the project application.

Insurance coverage depends on location of the project and home residency of the volunteer. Both policies are primary policies that do not have a deductible. As with all insurances, exclusions apply. An insurance brochure with the policy information and list of benefits will be sent to you in the confirmation email for this project.

Safety

Maranatha has a very high safety record on the worksite. This is, in part, because we require everyone on the construction site to wear a hard hat and gloves at all times. Please also wear appropriate safety equipment for the work tasks and wear sturdy shoes. Exercise caution while working on the construction site and be careful when working on or around ladders or scaffolding.

Thank you for putting safety first!

Registration

To register, please complete the online application at maranatha.org, or call to register over the phone. Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before making travel plans.

Contact Information

Phone: (916) 774-7700

Fax: (916) 774-7701

Email: volunteer@maranatha.org

Mail:

Maranatha Volunteers International
990 Reserve Drive, Suite 100
Roseville, CA 95678

Skills and Packing List

Skills

Skills or experience in the following areas would be helpful.

- Painting
- Electrical work
- Plumbing
- General construction
- Carpentry
- Landscaping

Items to Bring

Tool List

The following is a list of tools that will be helpful on this project. If you are able to bring any, it would be appreciated. Be sure to mark them with your name since many tools look alike. If you cannot bring some of the tools listed below, please remember to be considerate of those from whom you borrow.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail apron* | <input type="checkbox"/> Skill saw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape measure* (no metric or fractions) | <input type="checkbox"/> Handsaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level | <input type="checkbox"/> Drill-small hand ($\frac{3}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{4}$ ") |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility knife* | <input type="checkbox"/> Step ladder (6-8') |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpenter pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Framing nail gun (21 degree) | <input type="checkbox"/> Broom for cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler (hammer tacker) | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric cord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalk line* | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saws-all types | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard hat* |

*Required

General Packing List

This list is not comprehensive of all that you may choose to bring, but these are several of the items that have been most helpful to volunteers in the past.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good disposition and flexible attitude | <input type="checkbox"/> Underclothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work pants and shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard hat and gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Dress clothes for Sabbath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses or safety glasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal toiletries and sunblock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good, close-toed working shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ID and personal insurance information | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of this packet with Maranatha insurance information and project addresses | <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding: flat sheet, blanket, or sleeping bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal prescribed medication and any over the counter medication you use regularly | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel and washcloth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casual shirts, pants, and shorts | <input type="checkbox"/> Small pillow |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Small alarm clock |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Earplugs |

DIRECTIONS to the Niobrara County Dig/Southwestern Adventist University Research Field Station Project provided by SWAU:

It is important that the location of the project site remains confidential. This is to protect both the actual site and remains from vandalism or theft and to protect this working cattle ranch from unauthorized visitors. The information below is given to you for your personal use. Please do not duplicate and/or give to anyone else without authorization from the Southwestern Earth History Research Center or the Hanson Research Station.

The following are directions from either Lusk or Newcastle, Wyoming. All the roads and tracks are passable in dry weather with a two-wheel drive automobile; just drive slowly and steadily.

Highway 85 is a north-south highway between Lusk and Newcastle in eastern Wyoming.

At mile marker 206.6 on highway 85 is the turnoff to the Cheyenne River Road (GPS: N 43 31.468, W 104 11.883). This is about 22 miles south of Newcastle. The road is well marked with a country road sign **Weston 54**. If you are driving north it is shortly after you pass from Niobrara County into Weston County.

Note: there is another entrance to the road to the south that will get you there but skip that one—the northern road is shorter. Turn west onto the gravel (dirt?) county road. You will immediately pass through a cattle guard.

If it is or recently has been raining, this road may be very muddy in places and perhaps impassable. However, it dries out quickly.

Drive along this road about 15.2 miles. **Be very careful not to hit a cow!!** SLOW DOWN when there are cows on or near the road. SLOW DOWN when coming to the top of a hill. **VERY IMPORTANT!**

Note: the road changes names: Cheyenne River or Roxon. Whenever there is a fork in the road, **take the left branch**. The road runs basically west but does twist and turn between southwest and northwest. **Landmarks:** There is a house some distance off the road on the right (to the north) at about four miles. There is a house just off the road on the right about eight miles in near the Morrissy Road intersection. Further on, the Cheyenne River Road turns to the right, **but the road you want continues straight and is labeled Roxon Road**.

JOBSITE: The turnoff to the jobsite is approximately 15 to 15.2 miles (depending on your odometer) from highway 85. (GPS: N 43 30.443, W 104 27.385). If you are counting, it is after the fifteenth cattle guard you will pass through. The well graveled track is towards the south or on the left side of the road. On the visible horizon is a barbed wire fence with a gate that the track leads through. To the left in front of you is a small isolated butte. The turnoff is roughly at right angles to the county road.

Note: if you reach the sixteenth cattle guard, you have gone too far. If you reach a sign indicating Niobrara County, you have gone too far. If you reach an intersection where the road turns sharply south (GPS: N 43 29.803, W 104 29.204), you have gone much too far (about another 1.3 miles).

Generally, the gate is closed. Stop before the gate. Open the gate. Drive thru. Stop.

Close the gate. VERY IMPORTANT!! If the gate is opened, then you may drive through and leave it open. Remember, it is never wrong to leave a gate closed. It may be a serious problem if it is left open! If in doubt, close the gate!

Note: the “round” U-shaped bracket goes around the top of the gate—the “flat” bracket is used to tighten the closure.

Inside the gate follow the graveled track. Follow the track until it exits the ridges. Shortly it will take an abrupt **left** turn (toward the east). You are almost there! Continue to drive along this until you spot the job site (GPS: N 43 29.613, W 104 26.541)

Generally, follow the most heavily used track. The most visible choice occurs near the top of the ridge where the track disappears as seen from the job site. Here you follow the left branch.

GUESTHOUSE: The Hanson family guest house, where volunteers will stay, is on Roxon Road about 3 miles beyond the jobsite. It is next to the Hanson Ranch house on your right near some hoodoos (GPS: N 43 28.707, W 104 29.092). There is one driveway which then divides quickly. Take the **RIGHT** driveway to the house that is first visible.

THE MARANATHA STORE

Buy Maranatha merchandise!

Share the spirit of service with Maranatha-themed apparel and accessories.*

To order, visit maranatha.org/store
or call (916) 774-7700

All prices are excluding sales tax and shipping.

Maranatha T-shirt \$10



This Maranatha shirt is a poly/cotton heather blend by Bella + Canvas. Color is "heather forest"; unisex sizing.

Water Bottle \$15



The autospout water bottle by Contigo features a one-touch-button spout for convenient one-handed drinking. It also has a spout shield to protect the spout from debris and dirt when not in use—perfect for the project site.

Maranatha Sweatshirt \$25



This unisex pullover hoodie is remarkably soft with a loose fit that is versatile and lends itself to daily wear. Spun from a plush fabric that is made up of cotton and polyester fibers, this hoodie features an up-to-date fit, hood with white drawcords, kangaroo pocket, ribbed cuffs and waistband. Color is "Heather Navy"; unisex sizing.

Caps \$12



All cotton and easy to pack, this cap is sure to keep the sun off your face on a mission project and at home. Available in Khaki and Navy.

Hard Hat \$13



This MSA V-Gard hard hat, with Staz-On suspension, ensures excellent shock absorption on the job site.

MARANATHA.ORG

*All confirmed volunteers on an International Maranatha Open Team receive a Maranatha t-shirt as part of their participation fee.

MARANATHA
VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

