



What to Expect

Local Environment, Climate, and Weather

Crow Canyon is located in the high desert, where deep sandstone canyons dissect pinyon-, juniper-, and sage-covered plains, all against the distant backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. The campus and excavation site are located at an elevation of 6200 feet; the elevation of Mesa National Park ranges from 7000 to 8500 feet.

The Colorado sun is strong (ultraviolet exposure increases about 4 percent for every 1000 feet above sea level), and the air is generally very dry. In summer, daytime temperatures are usually in the mid-80s to low 90s, but occasionally reach triple digits. Nighttime temperatures can drop to around 50°F. In July and August (our monsoon season), it is not uncommon to get afternoon thunderstorms.

The best precaution for anyone not accustomed to both the dry climate and the high elevation is to drink plenty of water. We recommend that program participants drink at least two quarts of water per day, every day, while here. In addition, pre-hydration—drinking plenty of water for a few days before leaving home—may help the body acclimate more quickly. Also, sunscreen is a must!

Activity Level

Although program participants will work at their own pace in the field, archaeological excavation *does* require physical exertion: hiking a short distance to reach the site, hauling buckets of dirt, and kneeling on the ground for extended periods. Being in good physical condition will make the experience more enjoyable.

If you do not exercise regularly, you might improve your conditioning by taking consecutively longer walks at home before the program begins. If you have any questions or concerns about your ability to participate in this program, please call the enrollment manager at 970.564.4346 (toll-free 800.422.8975, ext. 146).

Gift Shop

Crow Canyon's small gift shop carries a variety of reasonably priced gift items, including books, T-shirts, and jewelry. The shop also stocks toiletries, film, and postcards. Shop hours are limited, but usually include the time between the end of afternoon activities and dinner. All proceeds from shop sales help support Crow Canyon's programs.