



North Carolina Fossil Festival
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2025 North Carolina Fossil Festival *Presented by the Aurora Fossil Museum* FACT SHEET

Thousands of people (over 19,000 in 2024) annually participate in the Award-winning North Carolina Fossil Festival in Aurora, N.C. Participation reflects the fact that fossil hunting has become a popular activity for thousands of individuals and families across the region and nation, and the Aurora Fossil Museum has become a mecca for hunters. The museum provides free fossil hunting and STEM education opportunities for people locally, regionally, and online. In 2024, over 34,000 people visited the Aurora Fossil Museum to *Dig the Past* with us.

The North Carolina Fossil Festival celebrates the state's natural history and furthers the museum's goal of educating the public regarding natural history in an enjoyable and engaging fashion. The 2025 North Carolina Fossil Festival will occur on **May 24 & 25, 2025**, and will include wide-ranging, accessible, and fun-filled activities for families and children to do, including:

- Search for ancient shark teeth and fossils in piles delivered by the local phosphate mine.
- The North Carolina Fossil Festival Parade includes regional fire and rescue units, floats, antique cars, and representation of community and fraternal organizations.
- Live music on the North Carolina Fossil Festival stage.
- Over 100 vendors, including fossil, mineral, craft, business, and community organizations.
- Dino Zone featuring life-size puppets and exhibits.
- Brew Zone showcasing craft breweries.
- Kid's Zone and Teen Zone activities.
- ADA Zone to champion Science for All.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Zone activities.
- A Mining & Engineering Zone.
- Fossil 5K Run and Jurassic Classic Bike Ride.
- Veterans' & First Responder's Breakfast to honor those who serve.
- Silent auction featuring fossils and natural history items.

The North Carolina Fossil Festival proceeds, and sponsorships benefit the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Aurora Fossil Museum Foundation, Inc. (Tax ID: 56-2181393), which allows for public educational and scientific outreach regarding the unique fossil record "right under our feet."

