Dear Project Archaeology Coordinators, Master Teachers, and Friends:

We hope this newsletter finds you well and happy this holiday season. We send our best to all of you who have been affected by fires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters this past year.

Our Leadership Team met in Bozeman in October for the 2017 Biennial Retreat. Our newest team members, Becca Simon from Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado and Courtney Agenten from Minnesota Project Archaeology, joined us. Other team members included Sarah Miller (Florida), Samantha Kirkley (Utah), Elizabeth Reetz (Iowa), Ranel Capron (Bureau of Land Management, ex-officio), Lianne Bennett (Florida), Beth Pruitt (Society for American Archaeology, ex-officio), and Gwynn Henderson (Kentucky). The retreat was highly productive. We revised and updated the Project Archaeology Strategic Plan, laid the groundwork for expanding and enhancing the National Network, and reviewed two important new curricula currently in development: Investigating Food and Land and an Informal Educator’s Guide. Sarah Miller has served on the Leadership Team for six years and will be leaving at the end of 2017; Courtney Agenten will fill her position for a three year term.

Our Annual Project Archaeology Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology conference in Washington, DC on April 11, 2018. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us in the nation’s capitol for a day of professional development and networking. Everyone is welcome so bring a colleague along. Stay tuned for more details.

Have a wonderful holiday and a happy new year and we look forward to seeing you in Washington!

Best regards,

Jeanne
SAVE THE DATE!

Represent Project Archaeology and meet fellow archaeology educators at the following conferences!

Society for Historical Archaeology
Annual Meeting: January 3 - 6th, 2018
New Orleans, Louisiana

American Institute for Archaeology
Annual Meeting: January 4 - 7th, 2018
Boston, Massachusetts

Society for American Archaeology
Annual Meeting: April 11 - 15th, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Join Project Archaeology for our Annual Meeting at the SAA’s on Wednesday, April 11th.

Project Archaeology Leadership Academy
June 25 - 29th, 2018
Bozeman, Montana

INFORMAL EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:
Digging 4-H: Days of Archaeology across Arkansas

By Hope Bragg - Project Archaeology Master Teacher in Arkansas

When a person initially thinks about 4-H, they often envision State Fairs, kids showing livestock, or sewing and cooking. Today 4-H is so much more, with three main initiative areas covering Healthy Living, Citizenship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) being emphasized across the nation.

In Arkansas, 4-H youth have been participating in 4-H Days of Archeology. At these events youth participate in Project Archeology lessons focusing on context and the archeological experience while touring active archeological dig sites or places of historical significance in the state.

During 2017, over 100 youth participated in events held in various locations. At the Rohwer Japanese Internment camp, the youth learned to map a cemetery, during the Cass Summer Training Program, youth conducted an archeological investigation of a prehistoric workshop along the Mullberry River, and in Fayetteville Arkansas, youth toured the state collections and headquarters of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. 4-H youth also visited Historic Washington, the Confederate Capital of Arkansas during the Civil War and Helena/West Helena a Civil War fort on the Mississippi River.

At the 2017 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Annual meeting, Hope Bragg received the Denise Miller Innovative Program award for her work introducing 4-H youth to archeology.

Hope Bragg wins the National 4-H Innovator of the Year award for work with archeology and 4-H youth.

Exploring Shelter - youth look at artifacts from the Poplar Forest Slave Cabin Quarters at Historic Washington State Park.

4-H youth mapping as part of a 4-H Day of Archaeology (photo courtesy of Jodi Barnes).
STATE HIGHLIGHT: IDAHO

Idaho Facilitator Workshop

By Mary Anne Davis - Idaho State Coordinator

In June of 2017, the Idaho SHPO hosted a three day Project Archaeology facilitator’s training at the Idaho State Archives for nine teachers, three archaeologists and one Idaho State Historical Society staff member. Jeanne Moe from Project Archaeology and Mari Harris from Valley View School District lead the class. Mari, a master teacher from the 2016 workshop, was named Idaho history teacher of the year soon after the workshop and uses activities from Project Archaeology curricula with her high school students. The grant partnership with the BLM for this past year funded the workshop and Jeanne Moe’s travel and per diem to Boise.

A highlight of the workshop was the field trip to Idaho City and the historic Pon Yam Store. The Pon Yam Store contains exhibits that explain the history of store owner Pon Yam and the experience of the overseas Chinese that came to the Boise Basin during the late 1860s looking for gold. Boise National Forest archaeologists provided a rare chance for participants to view artifacts excavated under the floor boards of the store. These included incense sticks, fire crackers, seeds of all kinds, and calligraphy brushes. Participants used their observation skills to pick objects on display or nearby buildings for an activity.

Not only did they learn about the Boise Basin but they also learned about each other – this was a great ice-breaker activity on the first day of the workshop.

The teachers left with resources and materials to take back to their classroom creating a public benefit for students. The archaeologists left with a better understanding of curriculum development and activities to use in public outreach. Future Project Archaeology annual trainings are being planned in association with the Idaho State Museum. The Discover Idaho Archaeology student reader is in final design set to be completed in 2018. The project has been supported in part by Idaho BLM.

Join us for our Online Professional Development!

Join us for a trip back in time with our Online Educator Course, starting February 5th, 2018. This eight week course requires 4-5 self directed hours of work per week, online whenever you have time! The course is for upper elementary teachers and costs $175.

- Convenient online access to professional development
- Inquiry-based instruction and lessons
- Full instruction in archaeological science for the classroom
- A complete curriculum guide, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter, endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies (textbook included in course cost)
- Access to a database of 16 regional shelter investigations
- Instructions for assembling your own classroom materials during the course

Interested? Register online by January 22nd, 2018. Contact: Rebekah Schields Rebekah.schields@montana.edu 406.994.6727
INFORMAL EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

Archaeology Merit Badge: Working with the Boy Scouts

By Jeanne Moe - National BLM Lead Project Archaeology

A team of dedicated archaeologists and local volunteers staffed the Archaeology Merit Badge booth at the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree in July near Beckley, West Virginia. David Fuerst, National Park Service archaeologist at New River Gorge, organized the local logistics including recruiting local volunteers to help set up the booth, assist with merit badge requirements, and register the scouts for sessions. Kris Alexander, head of the Society for American Archaeology task force on the Merit Badge, volunteered her time to assist with booth organization and activities. John Mullin, archaeologist at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and scoutmaster, taught several of merit badge requirements. My job was organizing the Project Archaeology-based activities and training new volunteers.

Using our experience at the 2013 Jamboree and John’s experience as a scoutmaster, the team revised the 2017 merit badge sessions to cover all 11 of the badge requirements. By the end of the Jamboree, we had awarded 359 merit badges, about 100 more than in 2013. We contacted an additional 1,415 scouts, leaders, parents, and visitors through both informal presentations by the scouts and conversations about archaeology at the booth.

After the Jamboree, Kris contacted the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to request revisions to the merit badge requirements. After 20 years of implementation, most archaeologists agree that the requirements emphasize excavation too much while there is not enough emphasis on stewardship. Kris, John, and I worked together to revise the requirements and sent our proposed revisions to BSA at the end of August. We are still awaiting a final decision from BSA on our proposal.

As of the end of 2016, BSA has awarded more than 170,000 archaeology merit badges. We hope that with the implementation of simplified requirements, even more scouts will earn merit badges in the coming years. Boy scouts provide a built in audience for archaeology education and we urge everyone to consider becoming a merit badge counselor and helping scouts earn their badges.
By Lindsay Bramble - Project Archaeology Master Teacher

It all started with a question. “Lindsay, your mom is an archaeologist, do you think she could come and talk to our Girl Scouts about rocks or something?” Alright, alright, now that you are finished laughing, dry your eyes and please continue reading.

That conversation happened in 2014 and as a Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts of Utah (GSU), my community was looking for something different to teach our girls. This turned out to be the beginning of a new and exciting, non-traditional approach to Project Archaeology. To make a long story short, I did call my mother, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) archaeologist in Ely, Nevada, who used her network to reach the Youth Program Lead in the BLM Utah State Office, Jeanette Shackelford. Jeanette then introduced me to Project Archaeology through Samantha Kirkley, Utah State Project Archaeology Coordinator, which sparked a friendship between GSU and Project Archaeology.

What was supposed to be a one-time archaeological teaching opportunity turned into a pilot program for where we are today. Our first experience was an overnight mini-camp with 80 girls and leaders in the Tooele Girl Scouts Community; we studied the Investigating Shelter curriculum. The girls learned what archaeology really is, how to be good stewards and citizens, and built a model Great Basin Wickiup. The Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute graciously accepted our invitation to introduce his culture to us. He created an emotional and spiritual experience that touched us all. The camp was a great event for everyone and we considered it a success.

After the lessons learned from the event, the decision was made to refine the girls’ experience by offering it to all girl scouts in Utah. We started by choosing authentic archaeological locations, reducing the number of participants to a more manageable size, and extending the learning time for a more rounded cultural experience.

Today, I have completed Leadership Training with Project Archaeology. As an individual with a B.S. in Entrepreneurship, which does not teach or have any interest in archaeology, it never occurred to me to know about archaeology. My outlook has changed and I am determined to use my network to educate the girls and leaders in my community. After two additional and successful years of camps under our belts, Samantha and I have made recognizable progress within these two incredible organizations. We are training Girl Scout leaders to teach their troops Project Archaeology’s curriculum, taking girls to sites and showing them the world around them from a new perspective, and meeting and learning from fascinating new people. We have been able to attract the attention, and much needed youth funding, of institutions such as the BLM of Utah, Utah State Parks, Forest Service, Friends of Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, Friends of Cedar Mesa, Southern Utah University, and others. Girl Scout leaders and BLM staff in surrounding states have shown keen interested in getting involved and I could not be more excited about the possibilities.

Each year we endeavor to improve and adapt the program to embrace the mission of Girl Scouts leadership initiatives. For all the successes, bumps in the road, and planning involved, the greatest gift that has come are the number of girls whose interest has been piqued, who are able to step in another’s shoes, and whose life changed because of Project Archaeology!

Bureau of Land Management employees in other western states have expressed interest in archaeology camps for girl scouts. The Havre Field Office (Montana/Dakota BLM) and the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming are working together to plan a camp for the summer of 2018. Stay tuned for future developments in the national archaeology patch program and please contact Jeanne Moe if you are interested in sponsoring a patch camp in your state.

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The eighty Girl Scout archaeology camp attendees with Virgil Johnson, an Elder from the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation.
Project Archaeology is an educational program dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation’s rich cultural resources. We are a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers nationwide through high-quality educational materials and professional development. Project Archaeology is a joint program of Montana State University and the Bureau of Land Management.

Project Archaeology’s Leadership Team visited Fort Ellis just outside of Bozeman, Montana, during the 2017 team retreat. While the day was incredibly windy, these archaeologists and educators from across the country searched for artifacts and examined a looters pit under the big blue Montana sky.