Hot muggy weather and heavy downpours failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Archaeology Merit Badge (AMB) team at the Boy Scouts of America’s Summit Bechtel Reserve Jamboree site in southern West Virginia this past July. Team members included archaeologists Dr. Jeanne Moe (BLM-Washington office and National Project Archaeology lead); Dr. Teresa Moyer (NPS-Washington); Scott Butler (Brockington & Associates); Dr. Robert King (BLM-Alaska); and Dave Fuerst (NPS-New River Gorge National River).

The AMB provided scouts who attended the 2013 National Jamboree with the opportunity to fulfill 8 of 11 requirements described in the BSA handbook. A total of 240 scouts received partially completed merit badge applications. Three scouts who had already completed some of their requirements were able to complete their remaining requirements at the Jamboree and received a signed merit badge application from one of the merit badge counselors.

The highlight of the training was the scouts participation in the archaeological investigation of a simulated Early Archaic campsite; we used the Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter quadrant map exercise to design and build the “site.” West Virginia flint knappers, Craig Ferrell and Dr. Dan Farnsworth, made most of the chipped stone artifacts and donated them for the jamboree. Dave Fuerst and Jeanne Moe constructed a plausible West Virginia archaic age “campsite” for the scouts to learn the principles of archaeological inquiry. Scouts began their investigation by identifying, classifying, analyzing projectile points and flakes left over from stone tool manufacture, and inferring their uses in a “field laboratory” next to the simulated site.

To help them understand the importance of context and site stewardship, scouts placed the cached artifacts on the ground at the base of numbered flags. The scouts observed the “site” and tested their previous inferences when the artifacts were placed in the context of a circular ring of wooden posts, central rock-filled basin, and four clusters of projectile points and flakes. The exercise showed scouts that artifacts can provide more information when they are in their original context.

Following their investigation of this simulated site, scouts learned two ways to make fire with a bow drill and spindle and with steel and flint respectively. They also learned what archaeology is and its relationship to anthropology, history, paleontology, and geology. The “Artifacts Ethics” lesson from Intrigue of the Past came in handy for teaching the importance of archaeological stewardship.

The Archaeology Merit Badge provides an excellent way to teach archaeology to thousands of scouts nationwide. We hope to continue staffing the Archaeology Merit Badge booth at the national Jamboree every four years and to provide merit badge counselors throughout the nation with high-quality lessons and activities for helping scouts earn their badges.
The Coordinator’s Conference this year promises to be a great opportunity for coordinators and facilitators to work together at a spectacular venue. The National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia offers great accommodations along the Potomac River and we will be there during the fall foliage. The agenda this year will focus on marketing strategies, populating the state pages with information and pictures on the new Project Archaeology website, and exploring opportunities to collaborate with descendent communities. Beyond the classroom, we will have the opportunity to visit the National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian. We will see the “Written in Bone” forensic anthropology exhibit which investigates the remains of the inhabitants of Jamestown as well as tour the new learning center at the museum. Local attractions near Shepherdstown, WV include an array of Civil War sites including Antietam, Harper’s Ferry and Gettysburg. Hope you are able to join us on October 14-18 in West Virginia! Contact Courtney at CourtneyAgenten@montana.edu or give her a call at (406) 994-6727 to register by September 6!
Hello Everyone,

We’re in the middle of another busy year. We had a busy schedule of workshops, field schools for teachers, and camps for children throughout the nation and we held the 4th annual Leadership Academy here in Bozeman in June. Now we are getting ready for our conference in October and we hope that you can join us in beautiful West Virginia at the National Conservation Training Center. The facilities are fabulous and the agenda will provide you with lots of opportunities for professional development, networking, and contributing to the important work of educating the nation about the significance of archaeological resources and the need to protect them. See our article about the upcoming conference on page two.

Graduates of the Leadership Academy will help us strengthen existing programs in seven states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Montana, and Utah) and provided us with certified instructors and new programs in three more states (Connecticut, Illinois, and Massachusetts). Since January, four archaeology educators; Jamie Palmer (BLM, Utah), R Emerson Howell (BLM, Oklahoma), Doug Shaver (South Dakota), and Stacy Tchorzynski (SHPO, Michigan) have volunteered to help coordinate programs in their respective states. Our national network is growing both in numbers and geographic distribution. We welcome all of our new members and greatly appreciate their willingness to bring archaeological stewardship education to teachers and students in their areas.

Together we can make a difference both in the protection of archaeological sites and in serving teachers and students with high-quality curriculum materials.

We launched our new Web site in 2012 and it is already making a difference to the program. We’re seeing lots more activity already and our book sales have increased. Please visit the site frequently for news articles, blog posts, and new materials. The more we use the site, the higher our SEO (Search Engine Optimization) will be. Suggestions for additions and improvements are always welcome.

Hope to see you at the conference in October!

Best regards,

Jeanne Moe

Jeanne Moe (BLM) and Bob King (BLM) at the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree in West Virginia. July, 2013.
By Courtney Agenten (National)

Super Site Protectors Ready to Serve!
You never know what to expect at the Project Archaeology Leadership Academy because the experience is dependent on the personalities and talents of our participants. Teachers and archaeologists from ten states convened on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman, MT packing with them years of experience in the classroom and the field, plus a ukulele! Throughout the four-day academy held June 24-28, 2013 participants hiked to the top of a buffalo jump, shared stories, played music, and walked the footprint of the Tinsley House.

The participants connected while sipping lemonade and enjoying yummy treats at the opening reception. Jeanne Moe, BLM Project Archaeology Lead, and Lisa Yopp, Arizona teacher, discovered in each other a kindred spirit through their love of playing folk music and the shared experience of completing a doctorate in education. Brenda Harrison, education consultant in California, and Angela Blue, Alaska teacher, bonded through their Native American heritage and interest in teaching Native American culture. The Leadership Academy is a great opportunity to meet new friends and network with others interested in archaeology education. Everyone left the opening session excited about working with each other over the next few days and with the promise of a musical performance by Lisa and Jeanne at the closing celebration! For this year’s shelter investigation we chose the Tinsley House because the guide was recently updated and we could take participants to the actual Tinsley House located at the Museum of the Rockies. Taking students and teachers to a tipi ring, a homestead house, or a slave cabin connects them with the past in a tangible way, especially when the understandings are reinforced with the shelter investigation activities. Sam Kirkley, Utah archaeologist, was fired up by her life-changing experience at the Leadership Academy. Her passion inspired her to coordinate and teach a day camp for kids just one month after she returned to Utah. She said that the kids could not believe that she had actually been to the Tinsley House and she was surprised by their interest in the featured Tinsley House descendant, Jackie Thompson; to them Jackie was a celebrity.

In addition to our visit to the Museum of the Rockies, Dr. Shane Doyle guided us on a tour of the Madison Buffalo Jump State Park.

During our classroom instruction time we added a session about Project Archaeology and the Common Core. Jeanne and members of the Project Archaeology Leadership Team worked diligently to align Investigating Shelter to the Common Core State Standards which are now available at www.projectarchaeology.org. Our discussion revealed some of the strengths of the standards as well as the challenges teachers face implementing them along with performance-based testing. Even though new standards and assessments can be discouraging, one participant reminded us all in an emotional testament from her personal education experience about the importance of teachers and said, “State assessment tests may teach some kids (like me) that they will never make it in college or as a professional, but the Project Archaeology curriculum has the ability to show all kids that they can do anything and become even more!” Similarly her teachers instilled in her the confidence that she could, even when the tests said she couldn’t. This is a time of transition for teachers and we are glad that Project Archaeology offers instruction and high-quality education materials that help their students successfully achieve the Common Core State Standards.

Jeanne Moe teaching Meghan Forney and Susan Schuckman to sketch stone circle at Madison Buffalo Jump State Park.

We are proud to announce our new PALA graduates, or as we like to call them: Super Site Protectors! (The super hero name comes from a skit performed during the Academy).

Sarah Bennett (Pensacola, Florida)
Angela Blue (Anchorage, Alaska)
Roberta C. Stone (Fairfield, Connecticut)
Meghan Forney (Bozeman, Montana)
Moriah Grooms-Garcia (Chicago, Illinois)
Kay Hansen (Olathe, Kansas)
Brenda Harrison (Auberry, California)
Suze Havener (Dillon, Montana)
Dani Hoeffe (Longmont, Colorado)
Sam Kirkley (Enoch, Utah)
Susan Schuckman (Olathe, Kansas)
Dr. Lisa Yopp (Surprise, Arizona)
Welcome Courtney Agenten!

Please join us in welcoming our newest Project Archaeology team member, Courtney Agenten. Courtney joined us this past May as our Special Projects Coordinator. Courtney taught secondary school at Petra Academy in Bozeman, MT for three years before joining the National Project Archaeology staff. She used both Investigating Shelter and Intrigue of the Past in her history instruction and incorporated archaeology into as much of her teaching as possible. Courtney will be coordinating our 2013 Coordinator’s Conference at the National Conservation Training Center in Sheperdstown, West Virginia coming up in October. Please join us in welcoming Courtney to Project Archaeology!