

It's a lens through which we view the **past**, understand the **present**, and address the challenges of the **future**.



# Archaeology...

## Is the Past in Your Future? Careers in Archaeology

### Still have questions?

Go to: [http://www.saa.org/Careers/  
tabid/131/Default.aspx](http://www.saa.org/Careers/tabid/131/Default.aspx)

You can also call or email the  
Society for American Archaeology,  
Manager, Education and Outreach  
[public\\_edu@saa.org](mailto:public_edu@saa.org), 202/559-5709

Society for American Archaeology  
1111 14<sup>th</sup> St NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20005-5622  
[www.saa.org](http://www.saa.org)



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

ON THE COVER:  
Kirsten Garwood working at  
Casa Real near the wildlife  
refuge center in Guam. She  
and her partner were digging  
a test pit at the Old Spanish  
Mission site, searching for an  
abandoned military pipe.



2011 University of Kentucky  
Summer Field School  
students Caitlin Rogers (left)  
and Emily Clark (right)  
preparing the initial plan  
map of Unit 82 in Block 1,  
at a prehistoric village site  
in central Kentucky.



"Being an archaeologist has given  
me a lifetime of fulfilling work  
and interesting challenges.  
I found out that it was possible  
to fuse my diverse interests  
in people, science, and the  
outdoors into a single profession."

—Jeanne Moe

Colin Wagner of Drexel University's  
Student Tracking Applied Research  
Fellowship Program prepares a  
colonial-era dish for scanning at the  
Independence Park Archeology Lab  
(Philadelphia, PA). Computer vision  
research in archaeology includes  
the virtual reconstruction of both  
artifacts and landscapes.

"... love of history prompted  
me to consider archaeology as  
a career. The job may not pay  
a lot but it is truly personally  
gratifying. As a Cherokee I  
feel that almost every aspect  
of my job allows me to  
preserve some vital piece of  
our unique Cherokee identity."

—Russ Townsend



# Don't let the movies fool you.

Archaeologists don't spend all of their time working outside in exotic and remote places, unearthing priceless objects.

Archaeologists ...

- Study the lives of past people.
- Share what they have learned, and
- Examine places and things people left behind.
- Work to protect the places past people lived.

## What kind of education do I need?

Archaeologists in the U.S. usually get their degrees in anthropology—the study of humans, past and present.

- Many combine archaeology with other interests, like history, classics, biology, environmental science, or education.
- Entry-level jobs in archaeology require only a bachelor's degree. A professional archaeologist needs a master's degree that includes specialized training in archaeology. This generally takes two years. Some jobs require a Ph.D., which takes several more years.

*Livingston Central High School students Michael Montgomery, Cody Doom, Brandi Holland, and Timmy Bryan, with assistance from the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, excavate a Civil War hut used by Union troops at Fort Smith located on school property in Smithland, Kentucky.*



*Jennifer Graham, University of Memphis Graduate Student, installs a temporary exhibit on the Poverty Point culture at the C.H. Nash Museum.*



*University of Memphis Anthropology majors August Marshall and Justin Shavers processing artifacts on the monthly Volunteer Day at the C.H. Nash Museum.*



*Vanessa Cabrera working a 3D scanner at the Latte Site, Ritidian, Guam.*

"... every day as State Archaeologist has been interesting—with something new to learn, some new person with whom to speak, places to visit, and a thousand things to work on."

—Giovanna Peebles

## Is archaeology right for me?

Experience archaeology firsthand to find out!

- Take an archaeology field school. These college- or university-sponsored excavations, usually held in the summer, are organized to train students. You'll hear lectures, learn how to dig, and earn college credits.
- Join an archaeological society. Many have local chapters that offer student memberships. You can find one here <http://archaeology.about.com/od/associations/a/smoke1.htm>
- Volunteer to work on an archaeological site. You can find a project that's right for you here [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork)
- Volunteer in a museum, lab, park, or historical site with artifact collections or exhibits.

"Truth be told, I can't imagine any other career ... "

—Melody Pope

## Where can I work?

- Business or government: Most U.S. archaeologists work in *cultural resource management*—called CRM for short. CRM archaeologists do research required by law. Government archaeologists take care of archaeological sites for research and public enjoyment.
- Colleges and universities: In an academic career, archaeologists teach and do research.
- Museums: Curators do research and work on exhibits. Conservators and collections managers analyze, preserve, and protect artifacts. Educators offer public programs.

Archaeologists also work as webmasters, park interpreters, consultants, elementary and high school teachers, CEOs, and directors of non-profit organizations. And *all* archaeologists give talks to the public!

## Tell me more!

- Personal career stories highlight a day-in-the-life of real archaeologists: <http://goo.gl/B0z2f2f>
- Archaeologists reflect on their careers: <http://www.saa.org/Careers/CareerAutobiographies/tabid/1442/Default.aspx>
- Listen to archaeologists discuss their career paths, jobs, and research: [http://anthropology.si.edu/video\\_interviews.html](http://anthropology.si.edu/video_interviews.html)
- Explore how to become an archaeologist at **About.com**: <http://archaeology.About.com/od/careersinarchaeology/tp/Archaeologist101.htm>
- Learn more about careers and the SAA: Archaeology for the Public: [www.saa.org/public](http://www.saa.org/public)



*Angie Payne using the Optech terrestrial laser scanner to create a high resolution 3D model of Machu Picchu World Heritage site in Peru. At the time of the photo (2005) she was an MA student in Arkansas. More on Angie's work at Machu Picchu can be found at <http://goo.gl/RCAxh>*

A career in  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**  
is about so  
**MUCH MORE**  
than digging!