

OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED

Center for American Archaeology, P.O.

Box 366, Kampsville, IL 62053; (618) 653-4316, www.caa-archeology.org.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, 23390

County Road K, Cortez, CO 81321; (800) 422-8975, www.crowcanyon.org.

Earthwatch, 680 Mt. Auburn St., P.O.

Box 403, Watertown, MA 02172; (617) 926-8200, www.earthwatch.org.

University of California Research Expeditions Program, University of California, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616; (530) 752-0692, www.urep.ucdavis.edu, email urep@ucdavis.edu.

OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT

Although this might not be an easy task, the following tips may help:

- Get as much diverse experience as possible. Obtain not only the skills to excavate, but also learn how to work with collections and conduct public interpretation. Develop good writing skills.
- Build a network system. Join archaeological associations. Get to know different archaeologists and become familiar with the jobs they do. Do not be afraid to ask them for advice and help.
- Become familiar with professional standards and ethic codes. These can be found through the *Register of Professional Archaeologists* at Register of Professional Archaeologists, 5024-R Cambell Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21236; (410) 933-3486, www.rpanet.org. The Society of American Archaeology's Principles of Archaeological Ethics can be found at www.saa.org/society/ethics/prethic.html.
- Search through the archaeological job postings, and do not be afraid to apply.
- Though finding employment may be difficult, do not give up hope!

Use these tips as basic guides. Every person is different and will approach finding employment differently. Each person simply has to find what works for them.

SOURCES

Society for American Archaeology, 900 Second Street, NE, Suite 12, Washington, D.C. 20002; (202) 789-8200, www.saa.org.

Society for Historical Archaeology, P.O. Box 30445, Tucson, AZ 85751; (520) 886-8006, www.sha.org.

American Anthropological Association, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203-1621; (703) 528-1902, www.aaanet.org.

National Park Service/Department of Interior: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240; (800) 3-DOI-Jobs, www.cr.nps.gov/aad/career.htm or www.usajobs.opm.gov.

The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA), 6150 East Ponce de Leon Ave., Stone Mountain, GA 30083, www.acra-crm.org/index.html. ACRA is a professional business organization for cultural resource professionals, including archaeologists.

National Association of State Archaeologists, nasa.uconn.edu.

The American Anthropological Association, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203-1621; (703) 528-1902, www.aaanet.org.

Archaeological Institute of America, Department AFOB, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; (617) 353-9361, www.archaeological.org.

ArchNet, an extensive web resource list, www.archnet.uconn.edu.

About.com maintains an archaeology guide that contains a list of some academic programs, career opportunities, and general information on archaeology, www.archaeology.about.com.

Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc., 66 Aurora St., PO Box 1190, Moravia, NY 13118-1190; (800) 622-7284, www.chronicleguidance.com. Ask for the Archaeology brochure. (nominal fee).

Carlson, David L., 1995 *Frequently Asked Questions About a Career in Archaeology in the U.S.* (www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/anthro/dlcfq.html)

Stuart, George E., and Francis P. McManamon, 1996 *Archaeology & You*. Society for American Archaeology, Washington, D.C., www.saa.org.

Zeder, Melinda A. 1997 *The American Archaeologist: A Profile*. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, Ca., www.altamirapress.com.



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Society for American Archaeology

The PATH to BECOMING an ARCHAEOLOGIST

Do you like LEARNING about the PAST?

Archaeology is the study of past human cultures through the analysis of the material evidence they left behind. By studying objects, such as buildings, tools, everyday objects, and even trash, archaeologists explore the relationship between these objects and people's behavior. From these studies, archaeologists can better appreciate the diversity in human culture. Archaeology allows us to understand how people and their cultures are different or alike and how they have changed. By understanding this diverse human past, we can better understand our lives today.

Most people may think archaeologists understand the past by simply excavating sites. Archaeology, however, is a lot more than just digging. Although many archaeologists work on excavations or teach at colleges, others are involved in many different aspects of the discipline. Archaeology is a very diverse field with many different types of employment opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS

Within the United States, archaeologists work in a variety of settings, including:

- Universities and colleges;
- Museums and historic sites;
- Government agencies at all levels, including federal, tribal, state, and local;
- Engineering and cultural resource management firms;
- Historical societies; and
- Private foundations.

VARIETY OF TASKS

Within these settings archaeologists work on a variety of tasks:

- Leading field research, including surveys and full-scale excavations.
- Analyzing artifacts in archaeological labs or museums.
- Writing reports and other publications.
- Teaching at the pre-collegiate, college, and university levels.
- Working in museums caring for collections of artifacts, records, and archives; analyzing and curating diverse collections; and doing public education through exhibits and programs.

- Working with tribal organizations. Many Native American tribes hire archaeologists to work with the tribe in managing their cultural patrimony.
- Working with land developers by supplying information to help plan future development.
- Protecting resources by working with government agencies to interpret and preserve archaeological resources.
- Saving, recording, and protecting sites and other historic resources from destruction through cultural resource management.
- Working with parks and historic sites through site interpretation.
- Working with local communities who are interested in learning more about their past.

In many jobs, archaeologists blend some or all of these tasks. It is necessary, therefore, that archaeologists must be prepared and trained to perform a variety of the tasks. Working conditions also vary depending on the job setting. Archaeologists can find themselves working outside in very rugged, remote areas, in an office or laboratory in a large urban area, or a combination of both.

EDUCATION

The type of job and work environment will determine how much education is needed. Most archaeologists working in the United States have college or university degrees in anthropology or history. Archaeologists working on ancient civilizations of Greece or Rome might have degrees in ancient history or classics.

A person with a bachelor's degree and field experience can usually obtain work on an archaeological field crew as a technician.

Supervisory positions in government agencies, museums, consulting firms, and teaching positions require a Masters or Doctoral degree.

The key to education is finding the academic program that will meet the individual's needs. Several resources exist to help individuals find the right academic program. The most comprehensive list of academic departments is The AAA Guide published by the American Anthropological Association. The AAA Guide describes college, university, and museum anthropology departments including faculty specialties and ongoing research programs. This guide not only helps people choose a college, but also helps them become aware of the wide range of research topics related to archaeology.

For more information on The AAA Guide, contact the **American Anthropological Association**, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22203-1621; (703) 528-1902, www.aaanet.org.

The Society for Historical Archaeology maintains a list of academic programs offering education in historical and underwater archaeology. Their list also includes faculty specialties and program information and can be found on the Internet at www.sha.org.

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) also has a list of top schools offering archaeology. For more information contact the Archaeological Institute of America, Department AFOB, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; (617) 353-9361, www.archaeological.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals interested in archaeology often participate in projects as volunteers, work as interns, or attend an archaeological field school. By taking part in these projects, a person can decide whether Archaeology is the right career path. Such participation also provides valuable work experience and starts a person down the path to a career.

Volunteer opportunities are often available through state archaeological societies and historic preservation offices and anthropology departments of local universities. Many other organizations also offer opportunities in archaeology.

The Archaeological Institute of America annually publishes the *Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin*. This publication lists many fieldwork and archaeological tour opportunities throughout the world. For more information, write the Archaeological Institute of America, Department AFOB, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215; (617) 353-9361, www.archaeological.org.

The National Association of State Archaeologists provides a list of current state archaeologists throughout the United States at www.nasa.uconn.edu.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Suite 332, Hall of the States, 444 North Capital St., Washington, D.C. 20001; (202) 624-5465. A list of state historic preservation officers can be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Web site www.achp.gov.

National Council for Preservation Education, 210 West Sibley Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.preservenet.cornell.edu.

Passport in Time (PIT), PIT Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 31315, Tucson, AZ 85751; (800) 281-9176. The U.S. Forest Service offers volunteer opportunities through PIT.

The Archaeological Conservancy, 5301 Central Avenue NE, Suite 1218, Albuquerque, NM 87108; (505) 266-1540, www.americanarchaeology.com.