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State Historical Society Archaeology Camp registration opens May 1

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is sponsoring a three-day Archaeology Camp for students going into grades 4-6 for the 2015-16 school year.

Camp dates are Tuesday through Thursday, June 9-11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDT. The program is structured for students to attend all three days. Registration is limited to the first 20 applicants, first-come, first-served.

Archaeology Camp is an active, outdoor experience located on the old Fort Galpin archaeological site near the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area north of Fort Pierre. Students should be prepared to hike and to work in the dirt alongside professional archaeologists.

Students will learn an introduction to the field of archaeology, why archaeological excavations are held, what stories artifacts can tell about the past, the history of fur trading posts, how to map a site and how to use team-building skills.

In addition to excavations at the site, other fun activities will include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center, making pottery, and learning flint knapping, the method used to make historic tools. A trip to the Turtle Effigy and the Oahe Chapel is also included.

Registration begins on May 1 at 10 a.m. CDT and will close on May 15 or when the camp is full, whichever comes first. The \$30 registration fee must accompany the registration and release forms found on the SHPO web site at history.sd.gov/preservation. Click on the link at the top of that page.

For more information on the Archaeology Camp, please contact Paige Olson at (605) 773-6004 or email her at Paige.Olson@state.sd.us.

For more information on other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458, email shpo@state.sd.us, or website history.sd.gov/preservation.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class

museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.