

# Archaeology Camp 2016

(Please click on images to enlarge them.)

The staff of the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has completed our fourth annual Archaeology Camp, which was held June 7-9, 2016. This highly popular 3-day camp is a cooperative venture with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is for students going into the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The 24 participant slots were filled within 15 minutes of registration opening in early May!



Team 1 is shown excavating their pit.

Archaeology Camp is an active, outdoor experience located on an archaeological site owned by the Corps. Over the years, we have worked on two different sites, Fort Galpin and Fort Pierre II. Both are former fur trading posts from the 1850s, and both lay along the Missouri River near the capital city of Pierre.

Participants learn an introduction to the field of archaeology, why archaeological excavations are held, what stories artifacts can tell about the past, the correct method of excavating and processing a site, and how to use team-building skills.



Kate Mullett and Katie Lamie examine artifacts found while excavating.

In addition, we plan special programming to break up their day. Over the last 4 years, these have included flint knapping, practicing with atlatls, dissecting owl pellets, making pottery, and molding animal tracks. There have been presentations on fur trading posts, American Indian pottery, flintlock guns, local fish, owls, and banding migratory birds. Tours are given of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society, the State Archives, and several local historic sites, including a turtle effigy.

Students work alongside professional archaeologists. We have been fortunate to have the expertise of not only the SHPO and Corps of Engineers archaeologists but also those from the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. There has also been programming provided by staff of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

There are six pit teams made up of four students, an adult team leader (SHPO staff), and an archaeologist. Students take turns excavating, screening, measuring, and mapping their sites. Each team also works with a separate archaeologist to process any artifacts they find.



The steam ship team discusses strategy during the trading post exercise.

**See more photos below.**



Team 2 screens dirt from their pit.



Team 5 searches for artifacts on their screen.

Katie Lamie, an archaeologist with the SD State Archaeological Research Center, explains how to process various types of artifacts. Here she discusses the difference between brick, mortar, and daub.



A button from a military uniform was found while excavating. If you look closely, you can make out an eagle's wing.



Team 6 is starting the processing procedures by sorting the artifacts they found.



Toothbrushes in hand, members of Team 5 begin gently cleaning their artifacts.



Kate Nelson with the SHPO staff is holding a “This Place Matters” flag. This is a campaign by the National Trust for Historic Preservation asking people from all over the country to have their picture taken with these flags or signs in front of historic places that are important to them.

The photo gives a good overview of the six excavation sites. The first two are barely visible to the left and right of Kate.



Taylor Newell's dart flies off her atlatl while Andre Carbonneau and Chris Nelson watch.

Chris Nelson with the SHPO staff explains how to place a dart on the atlatl. Watching are Jeremiah Bardeson, Skyler Ruth, Andy Page, and Brody Mullett.



Owen Heiss enjoys dressing up at the Oahe Dam Visitor Center while Mya Tupper finds something interesting.



Campers gather around the turtle effigy to learn about its history.



Left, Hilary Meyer with SD Game, Fish & Parks discusses local fish and their habitat. Above, Casey Heimerl, also with Game, Fish & Parks, prepares to band a Yellow Warbler.

