




Field Notes

Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society

No. 449 March/April 2026



 Arkansas
Archeological
Society

from your editor

It is a further purpose of this Society to encourage the scientific investigation, study, and interpretation of our cultural heritage, and to publish and distribute the results of these investigations, particularly those relating to Arkansas.

— from the Constitution of the AAS, Article II, Section 2

On the cover: View, facing northwest, of excavation areas from the 2025 Training Program at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park, with Mound B in the background and the plaza in the foreground.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Arkansas Archeology Month

We are off to a good start with Arkansas Archeology Month! Read all about this year's theme: *Decrypting Gravestones: Symbolism in Cemeteries*, on the Survey website at archeology.uark.edu. We invite you to respectfully visit your local cemeteries with a friend and a camera to learn more about gravestone iconography.

Don't miss Celebrate Archeology Day in Monticello, Saturday, March 28 from 10am to 2pm at the Pauline Baptist Church. ARAS-UAM Station Archeologist Dr. Matthew Rooney will lead a tour of the historic Oakland cemetery with a talk on preserving African American cemeteries. Representatives of the Quapaw and Choctaw Nations will be in attendance and ARAS staff will be hosting booths and fantastic artifact displays. For details and a full listing of Archeology Month events, see the ARAS and AAS calendars: <https://bit.ly/4l6ot4Z>.

The 2026 Training Program

Dust off your trowels—it's almost time for the Society dig! Last year's dig at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park was such a success we are going back for a second season. Read about the upcoming June 2026 Training Program in the following pages and find the registration materials in the color insert. If this is your first Training Program, be sure to choose your Orientation session on the Registration form. **ALL** participants (meaning everyone who will be on site, including professional archeologists) are required to fill out the Participation Agreement. This is for everyone's protection and to ensure a safe environment. Information on seminars and basic schedule are in the article starting on page 8. Scholarship information for the Training Program is on page 14. All additional information will be sent to you after May 12. Remember the early deadline for registration is May 1; all registrations must be received by May 11, no exceptions. .

Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference: October 14–17, 2026

The Center for the Study of the First Americans is hosting an International Conference on the First Americans October 14–17, 2026 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. You are invited to participate in a three-day examination of the first people to explore and settle the Americas at the end of the last Ice Age. This conference is for everyone—archeologists, avocational archeologists, Quaternary scientists, students, and anyone interested in archeology. Hear 35 lectures given by preeminent scholars on all aspects of the study of the First Americans. Examine 400 poster presentations on a variety of topics and view artifact casts from important sites. Enjoy the opportunity to ask questions, meet, and discuss the First Americans with the speakers, poster presenters, and others throughout the day and during evening meet-and-greet sessions. For more information, see page 13 or visit the CSFA website (www.centerforfirstamericans.com).

Contact Your Newsletter Editor: Do you have something for the Newsletter? I welcome comments on anything previously published in *Field Notes*, or new contributions from members. General guidelines for submissions are on p. 15. Contact me at: Julia Fan, Arkansas Archeological Society, 2475 North Hatch Ave., Fayetteville, AR, 72704, or send me an email at juliaf@uark.edu. My phone number is 479-575-2161. Please note, I do not have the membership database and cannot check your membership status. Please contact Rachael Wiest for that information at rmartin@uark.edu.

The 2026 Training Program

Paige Ford - Arkansas Archeological Survey, Plum Bayou Mounds

We are back this year with continuing investigations into the community spaces of Plum Bayou peoples! To remind you, last year we returned to excavate at Plum Bayou Mounds (3LN42) for the first time in over a decade, geared towards filling in gaps in our knowledge about the Terminal Late Woodland communities who built and used this exceptional mound site from AD 650-1050 (Ford 2025). Most of the focus at Plum Bayou Mounds has been on the mounds themselves, which is problematic because an overemphasis on mounds biases our interpretations about the full range of practices that were happening at large ceremonial sites like this one (Kassabaum and Nelson 2016; Kassabaum 2019). Plazas were likely the spaces where most of the community gathered, celebrated, and connected with one another. Investigating such areas can give us a better picture of what was happening in these often-overlooked places. They may look less grand, but the plazas at mound sites are as complex—perhaps even more so—than the mounds themselves. These spaces had specific rules for how they were organized and what went on within them. And archeologists in the last decade have just begun to understand the complexities of plazas and their importance to mound-building communities. That is why last year we focused our excavations at Plum Bayou Mounds in and near the southern plaza. We will continue that work this year! Below I’ll go over what we learned and what we will focus on this summer.

Feature 6: Pits, Feasting, and Residues

The two areas targeted for excavation for the 2025 Training Program were located within and adjacent to the southern plaza, one of two confirmed plazas at Plum Bayou Mounds (Figure 1). Each of these areas were investigated with remote sensing in January 2025 and those data showed strong magnetic anomalies signaling the potential for significant amounts of burned material. The first of these was where Basic Excavation spent most of their time, located between Mounds C and G. The anomaly they

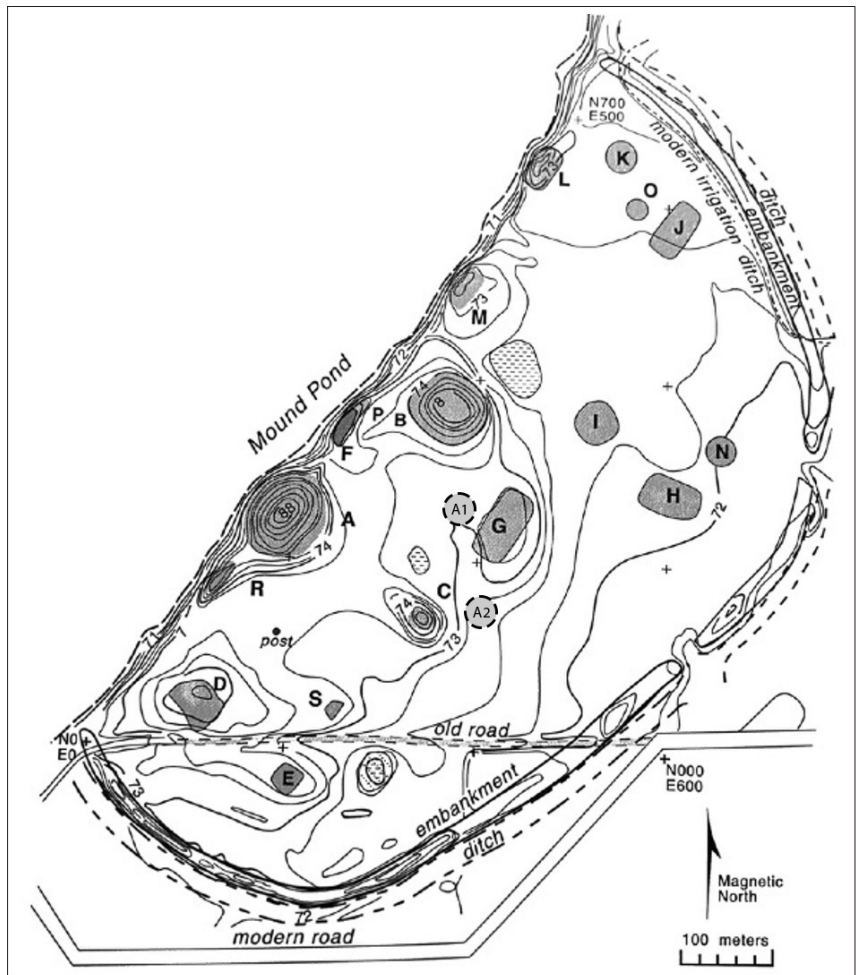


Figure 1. Map of Plum Bayou Mounds (3LN42) layout with excavation areas outlined and designated A1 and A2 (adapted from Rolingson 2012).

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investigated was hypothesized to be a feasting pit (Figure 2). Feasting pits are ideal targets for excavation, especially in areas like this one that are next to, and on the periphery of, one of the plazas on site. Such contexts can provide a lot of data in a relatively small window of time (and space). They are like little time capsules of information, showing the way people prepared food, the foods they ate (and the foods they did not), when they held these meals, and much more. They can also produce important insights into the gatherings of these communities, especially since these mound centers were primarily built for communal feasting and for bringing these dispersed populations together.

Upon excavation, this area did yield a portion of a circular or ovate pit—with dark, greasy soils with an increased clay content, loads of burned material including charcoal and burned clay as well as burned pottery, animal bone, and lithics. Right now, we are interpreting this as a feasting deposit or at least a trash deposit with evidence of cooking and food preparation. Inside this pit (referred to from here on as Feature 6), there was a dense accumulation of large, carbonized ceramic sherds stacked on top of one another (Figure 3). We sampled this small area very carefully by taking out one big block, with sherds and soil matrix intact. We then froze those samples for absorbed residue analysis (see Reber 2022 for more information on how this works) and took care to preserve the soil that was with the ceramics for paleoethnobotany. The results of these are forthcoming! Such a dense burned deposit like this one provides us a unique opportunity to do a few things: 1) to assess if residue analyses are viable tools in the investigation of Terminal Late Woodland subsistence in the region, 2) to troubleshoot how to sample and use these contexts

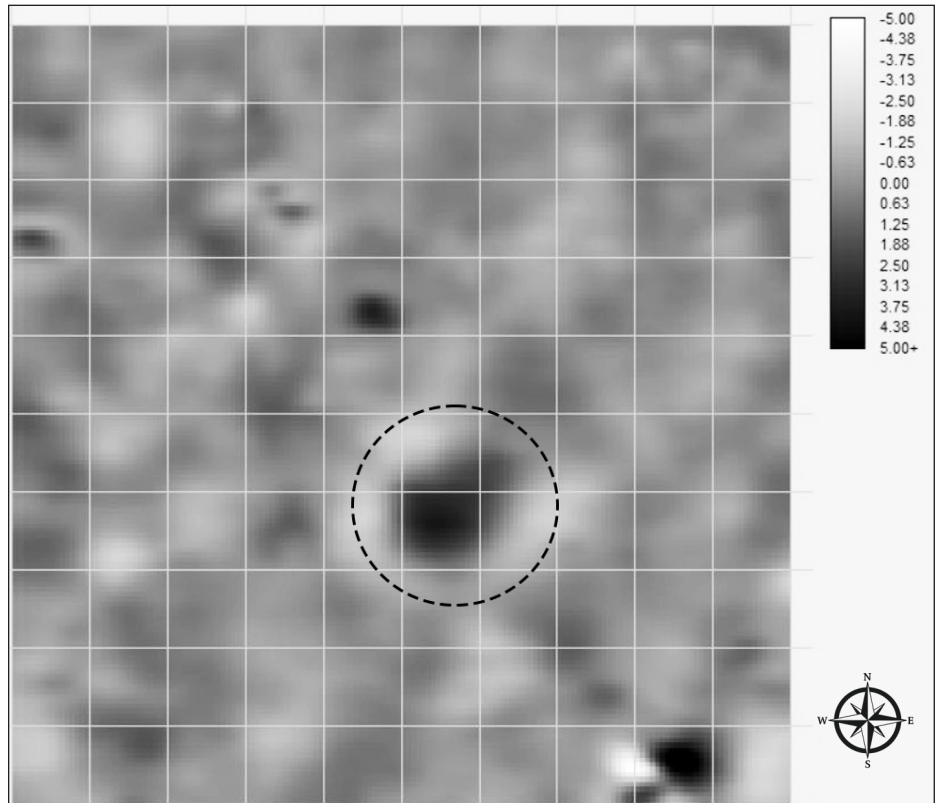


Figure 2. Magnetometer data for Feature 6, with the larger anomaly circled with a dashed line (image courtesy of Dr. Jami Lockhart, ARAS-CSP).

for such purposes, and perhaps most importantly 3) provide a unique opportunity for us to tell a cohesive narrative about a “snapshot” in time of Plum Bayou feasting activities using the combined residues data, paleoethnobotanical analyses, and AMS dates. It is possible that this dense accumulation of pottery may represent a single trash dump event from cooking and feasting activities, but more excavation and analysis are necessary to assess this hypothesis.

Thus, we will return to this area once more this summer, to finish up what we started. We will reopen the unit with that accumulation of sherds to finish that work, and open adjacent units to delineate the boundaries of this large pit, and hopefully collect more data for residue analysis and to better understand this feasting event.

Investigating the Plaza: Expect the Unexpected

The second area we investigated in 2025 is a lovely example of why we are still doing research into Plum Bayou peoples use of this space, and how much



Figure 3. Feature 6 showing window cut adjacent to sherd accumulation. This illustrates the density of the sherds within this portion of Feature 6. The sherds in this window were taken for residue analysis and the soil collected for flotation.

we still do not know about their activities here and elsewhere. This area was located west of Mound G (see Figure 1) and the geophysical data – much like the other area – suggested there would be significant amounts of burned material present in a particular subsurface feature. It being located directly in the plaza, this anomaly had the potential to illuminate a lot about Plum Bayou ritual and ceremonial practices as they relate to the very communities that experienced and enacted them.

Expecting perhaps another feasting pit, we instead uncovered an intensively burned area—perhaps a clay lined pit or some other small construction—with

a high concentration of daub within its boundaries (Figure 4). Daub refers to the “wattle and daub” techniques Indigenous peoples in the southeastern US used to build structures. The wattle is the interior frame of the structure’s walls, often made from split and whole pieces of rivercane woven together. After building this frame, they would line it on both sides (inside and outside) with clay. When they demolished buildings, they often burned them, burning away the wattle frame, leaving the burned pieces of clay behind. Archeologists call the burned clay daub, as you can see the impressions of rivercane from the wattle frame in the clay (Figure 5).

Finding daub in the plaza is an incredibly remarkable find for several reasons, one being that no other excavations at Plum Bayou sites to date have uncovered such a significant volume of such architectural debris (Nassaney 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994; Rolingson 1982, 1998, 2000, 2012). If this clay-lined area itself is not representative of a small structure, this evidence at least indicates that there was a daub-lined structure somewhere on site at Plum Bayou Mounds that was deconstructed, and the architectural debris placed within a clay-lined pit.

All in all, this feature is curious, and unique in its composition for what we have seen in Plum Bayou contexts. It may hold important data regarding feasting events, ceremonies, rituals, or more—giving us insights into the community calendar of Plum Bayou peoples, seasonality, how they built and utilized structures on site, and may help us find other structures both at Plum Bayou Mounds and elsewhere.

Either way, more work and analysis are needed to fully assess and interpret these findings, and we will do so by returning to these contexts for the 2026 Training Program excavations. We have submitted a piece of rivercane for dating from this context thanks to a grant through the Archeological Research Fund with the Arkansas Archeological Society, and can confirm this deposit (and thus, the daub) dates to the Late Woodland period. So, we have more excavation to do in this pit and the surrounding area of the plaza to see what we can learn about their significance to the activities of Plum Bayou people at this site.



Figure 4. Feature of interest in the plaza at 3LN42. Of note is the clay outline seen in the northern portion of the unit, as well as the concentration of daub within the boundary of that clay lining.



Figure 5. An example of daub found in the plaza at Plum Bayou Mounds (3LN42). Note the split cane impressions and potential rope/cordage lashing.

Historic Archeology? On a Precontact Site?

Well, maybe. The wonderful thing about archeological sites is that they often are what we call “multi-component,” meaning that there are multiple occupations throughout the story of any one given place. Think of it like families moving in and out of a house through the years, or building and demolishing homes on a property. Same concept. Different time periods, different people, but same place, and they all leave their mark. Plum Bayou Mounds is no different; in addition to Plum Bayou communities using this place, we also see evidence of Mississippian peoples, French explorers, as well as sharecropper homesteads who worked the land (Rolingson 2012). In fact, we have been doing geophysics the last few months to see if we can locate one of these 1800s-era homesteads, as this is beneficial for us to understand the site’s full story, and to better understand how historic use of the site has impacted the underlying Plum Bayou deposits. If the results are promising, our historic archeology course may do a small test unit to illuminate more about this historic homestead.

Logistics

The logistics will be much the same as last year, with our base of operations at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park (PBASP). Pay close attention to announcements, however, as there will be some important information incoming about rideshare, parking, and shuttles. The parking lot at PBASP is quite small, so we’ll need to coordinate to make sure we can all get to where we

need to be for the summer and leave space for visitors to come learn and see what we are doing! And speaking of the park, we still have the support of the staff at PBMASP, which means we did not turn them off our little project last year! Let's be sure to continue being respectful and kind to those partners in this work.

The campground will be a USACE facility by the name of Willow Beach, which is about halfway between PBMASP and Little Rock, which has plenty of places for groceries, restaurants, and more. There are also plenty of hotels and places to stay in Little Rock, so accommodations are plentiful.

For classes, we'll have Basic Excavation and Basic Lab as per usual taught both weeks. We will also be offering classes such as Lithic Analysis, Historical Archeology (with potential excavation component, see above), and Site Survey. And finally, we will have a few evening talks and gatherings which I encourage all to attend!

Meet me at the Mounds (again)

I hope you will come join us to answer some interesting questions and likely find something unexpected. That is the fun part about archeology—you never know what to expect! So, come help and be part of this research, interact with park visitors, and get them excited about archeology too. We hope to see you this summer!

References and Further Reading on Plum Bayou Mounds

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"Well, here I am!"

Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program: Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park May 30–June 13, 2026 | Scott, Arkansas

Where, When, What & Who

The 2026 Training Program is a collaborative project between the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) and the Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS). The Training Program, which will begin Saturday, May 30, and continue through Saturday, June 13, will be held in Scott, Arkansas, in the central part of the state. Our base of operations will be Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park. Station Archeologist Dr. Paige Ford will be directing the Training Program with support from Station Assistant Katy Gregory, as well as ARAS staff and AAS supervisors and instructors.

Membership

Participants must be current (2026 calendar year) members of the Arkansas Archeological Society (separate from local chapters). You can become a member or renew your membership online at arkarch.org. Contact Rachael Wiest if you have questions about membership (rmartin@uark.edu).

Under Age 18 & Minimum Age Requirements

All participants under age 18 must have a parent, guardian, or adult sponsor with them. **The adult must also register and be with the child at all times.** Minimum age for participation is **8 years old**. No children younger than 8 years old may participate in the Training Program and no unregistered children are permitted on site or in the seminars.

Registration, Cancellations & Refunds

The deadline for early registration is **Friday, May 1**. After May 1, late registration will incur a \$15 late registration fee. Registrants must sign and return the accompanying Project Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver, and the Code of Conduct form with their registrations. ***This year, we are NOT accepting registrations after Monday, May 11. There will be NO exceptions.*** Please get your registration and accom-

modations figured out early. If you need to cancel your attendance at the Training Program, email Rachael Wiest (rmartin@uark.edu) before **Monday, May 11 to receive a full refund**. Cancellations made after May 11 will not receive a refund.

Students

If you are a student who has made arrangements with their advisor to receive credit hours for attending the Training Program, please be sure to indicate this on the registration form. Rachael Wiest will contact you to request more information. We will be unable to assist with academic credit arrangements if the request is not made on the registration form.

Directions

The Training Program Headquarters will be at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park, located off of US 165 South (turn on to CR 835 AKA Toltec Mounds Rd), 490 Toltec Mounds Rd, Scott, AR 72142, about 23 minutes' drive (20 miles) southeast on US 165 South from Little Rock, about 2 hours and 20 minutes' drive (156 miles) northeast on I-30 E from Texarkana, about 2 hours' drive (131 miles) west on I-40 W from Memphis.

Facilities

The AAS Headquarters, orientation, field lab, and MOST seminars will be located at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park and the ARAS Plum Bayou Mounds Research Station. The Basic Excavation seminar will be held at the Education Building of Plantation Agriculture State Park. All evening talks will be held at All Soul's Church (across the highway from Plantation Agriculture State Park).

Check-In

Our workday starts at 7:00 am, so you should **arrive the day before** you intend to start your first day of work. When you arrive, check-in at Headquarters to

collect your second packet of information and name badge. Headquarters will be staffed each work day from **6:30 am until 3:30 pm**. If you arrive after 3:30 pm, please check-in at HQ the following morning before 6:45 am. **Please note that parking is limited to visitors of the State Park and you will not be allowed to leave your car parked during the work day. No exceptions. There is a shuttle lot by Plantation Agriculture State Park.**

Accommodations

Hotels and Lodging

Call or visit websites (AAS website has links) for rates, amenities, and availability. Mileage and time noted below indicate the distance and approximate travel time to Headquarters at Plum Bayou Mounds. Being near Little Rock, there are many options for hotels and accommodations, so do some shopping around before booking a room.

- Holiday Inn Express Little Rock-Airport, 3121 Bankhead Dr, Little Rock (501) 490-4000, (13.7 mi; 16 mins)
- Holiday Inn LR-Airport-Conf Center, 3201 Bankhead Dr., Little Rock, (501) 490-1000, (13.8 mi; 16 mins)
- StayApt Suites North Little Rock, 3300 ABF Rd, North Little Rock, (501) 725-2299 (17.7 mi; 21 mins)
- Hampton Inn & Suites Lonoke, 240 Brownsville Loop, Lonoke, (501) 676-0602, (20.2 mi; 23 mins)

Society Campground **IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!**

The Society campground will be located at the US Army Corps of Engineers’ Willow Beach campground, which is located on the shores of Willow Beach Lake and the Arkansas River. There are fire rings, picnic tables, electrical (30 and 50 amp) and water at the campsites. There are two shower buildings each with



Map of the Plum Bayou Mounds / Winfrey Site/ Willow Beach Campground area.

two showers for women and two for men. There is a boat launch and pavilions near the host hut where there are bathrooms without showers. There is no designated swimming at the campground. Swimming is definitely NOT recommended.

Sixteen RV sites have been secured and prepaid by the Society to keep all camping participants together. We will be sharing RV sites with tent campers, a maximum of two tents per site with an RV. This will enable us to share electricity with tent campers. Generators are not allowed. You must pay for every day that your RV or tent is set up, even if you are not there.

ALL SOCIETY CAMP SITES WILL BE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

If you arrive and there isn't a spot in the Society campground, your payment for camping will be refunded to you and you will need to find a campsite in the non-electrical site area or will need to find other accommodations. The campground attendant and Society camp hosts will work with you to locate a spot.

Refunds for camping will only be made available for those who arrived and are unable to secure a Society camp spot upon their arrival. Non-Society campsites are \$26 per night.

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The Society camping spots are reserved Wednesday, May 27 through Saturday, June 13. The latest check-out is Sunday, June 13 at 5pm. Payment to the Society is as follows: tents - \$12 per night; pop-ups - \$16 per night; and, RVs - \$22 per night. If you come earlier or stay longer, you will need to make your reservations through recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777. When you arrive, find the Society camp host who will help you find a camping spot. Campground check-in is 6pm ending at 9 pm. No set up after quiet hours start at 10:00 pm. Give yourself extra time to set up your tent or camper.

The main road to Willow Beach is Colonel Maynard Rd., just off of Hwy 165. Call the Army Corps of Engineers Office at 501-961-1332 to find out the status of the road if you suspect there is flooding. There will be a flood route map at HQ if needed.

Transportation- VERY IMPORTANT!

As we are unable to park at the Plum Bayou Archeological State Park parking lot we will have a clearly marked Training Program shuttle lot located across the street from Plantation Agriculture State Park (4815 AR-161, Scott, AR 72142) at the fork of AR-161 and US-165. Everyone is responsible for their own transportation to the shuttle lot. A bus will transport participants from the shuttle lot to and from Headquarters at Plum Bayou Archeological State Park. We encourage carpooling from the campground as the shuttle lot can fill up. The bus will leave every morning at 6:45 am and return at approximately 3:30pm. There will NOT be a lunch shuttle, so plan accordingly and bring your lunch.

Food and Ice

Each person is responsible for their own meals. There are several stores in and near Little Rock and Scott to shop for food, ice, and other items you might need. You should bring lunch with you each day, regardless of whether you will be working in the field, in the lab, or attending a seminar. Vehicles and/or buses **will not** be returning to camp or headquarters for lunch.

| | | |
|---------|----------|--|
| May 29 | Friday | Set up camp, Headquarters, and Lab Staff and Supervisors Meeting at 3:00pm |
| May 30 | Saturday | First Orientation, Lab, Field Activities begin at 7:00 am (Shuttle bus leaves Plantation Agriculture State Park at 6:45 am) |
| June 1 | Monday | 1st Session Seminars start |
| June 5 | Friday | Last day of 1st Session Seminars |
| June 6 | Saturday | Public Day! |
| June 7 | Sunday | Site Stewardship Workshop |
| June 8 | Monday | DAY OFF! No field or lab activities Last Orientation at 1:00 pm! |
| June 9 | Tuesday | 2nd Session Seminars start |
| June 13 | Saturday | Last day of 2nd Session Seminars |
| June 14 | Sunday | Close excavations (if needed) and pack up |

Basic Schedule

You may come to the Training Program for as long or short a time as you like. Please note: WE WORK EVERYDAY, except Monday, June 9, our only day off. We will start the workday at **7:00 am** when the bus arrives at Plum Bayou. Campers need to leave the campground by **6:30 am** to get to Plantation Agriculture State Park before the shuttle bus leaves at 6:45.

The shuttle bus will leave promptly at 6:45 am from Plantation Agriculture, do not be late. Lunch break will be from **10:30–11:30 am**, and the workday ends at 3:30 pm, allowing attendees time to rest and relax before dinner and/or attending any evening talks or other activities. A detailed schedule of all activities, seminars, evening programs, and special events will be in the second packet of information that you will pick up at Headquarters when you arrive. Announcements and work schedules will be posted in camp and on the door at Headquarters.

Orientations

All first-time attendees must attend the Orientation prior to participating. Orientations will be scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, May 30 (7:00am)
- Sunday, May 31 (7:00 am)
- Sunday, May 31 (11:30 am)
- Monday, June 1 (7:00 am)
- Friday, June 5 (11:30 am)
- Monday, June 8 (1:00 pm)

Please indicate which Orientation you will attend when registering. If none of the scheduled Orientations work for your plans, please contact Rachel Wiest to discuss; rmartin@uark.edu or (479) 575-3557. Anyone is welcome at Orientation, no matter if you're a new participant or a returning one who wants a refresher.

Seminars

In addition to excavating and working in the lab, Training Program participants have an opportunity to register for a variety of seminars instructed by ARAS professional archeologists. You must register for seminars in advance on the Registration Form. Seminars fill up fast, so be sure to register early.

New participants are strongly encouraged to sign up for one of the Basic Seminars: Basic Excavation, Basic Lab, or Site Survey. Basic Excavation is especially recommended and is a full-day seminar.

Participants may take one seminar each weekly session of the Training Program. Some seminars require completion of prerequisites, unless special permission is granted, as noted below. Most seminars are held for 4 hours each day and last for 5 days. Participants must attend all days of a seminar to complete it. Since most seminars are half-day, participants are able to do fieldwork or work in the lab the other half of the day.

There are no seminars on Saturday, May 30–Sunday, June 1 nor Sunday and Monday, June 7–8. There is a special interest Site Stewardship Workshop on Sunday, June 7. Seminars are subject to cancellation if fewer than 3 people register.

Seminars – Session 1

Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 5

- **Basic Excavation:** Dr. Emily Bartz
(Full-day seminar)
This is one of three basic seminars that gives participants a guide to archeological excavation and the proper methodology used by archeologists in the field. This seminar combines both classroom and field instruction that covers topics ranging from tools of the trade to unit profile drawing to screening artifacts to ethical considerations.

- **Basic Lab:** Taylor Greene
(Half-day seminar, PM)
Another basic seminar, encouraged for first-timers, this half-day seminar focuses on proper lab documentation once artifacts come in from the field. This includes artifact washing, rough sorting, and proper bag labeling to ensure proper curation of artifacts post-Training Program.
- **Site Survey:** Dr. Bob Scott
(Full-day seminar)
Site Survey is the third basic seminar offered each Training Program that offers training in a broad survey context. Topics will include experience using compasses, pacing off shovel-test pits, screening for artifacts, documenting survey information, and filling out archeological site forms.
- **Lithic Analysis:** Dr. Julie Morrow
(Half-day seminar, PM)
This five-day, hands-on workshop will focus on the identification and classification of stone tools and the debris from manufacturing and maintaining tools, including atlatl weights, projectile points/ knives, spades, axes, and celts. Students will learn how to accurately document the shape and size attributes of stone tools, identify materials Native Americans selected to manufacture chipped and ground stone tools, determine age/cultural affiliation, source stone materials, determine function of tools, and learn how chipped and ground stone tools can be hafted and recycled.

Special Interest Workshop

Sunday, June 7

- **Site Stewardship Training:** Dr. Mel Zabecki
(Full-day workshop, field and classroom)
Archeological sites are at risk of destruction due to environmental and human-made causes. Join your fellow Society members interested in learning how site stewardship can contribute to the preservation and protection of Arkansas cultural resources and why this is important.

Seminars – Session 2

Tuesday, June 9 through Saturday, June 13

- **Basic Excavation:** Dr. Maureece Levin
(Full-day seminar, field and classroom)

- **Basic Lab:** Dr. Matthew Rooney
(Half-day seminar, PM)
- **Historical Archeology:** Dr. Carl Drexler
(Full-day seminar, field and classroom)
Come learn about a unique time in human history, when peoples, governments, and economies around the world shifted, fought, and connected. Archeological research in this area is a unique way of telling the stories of all peoples involved in this process. We tell these stories through artifacts and documents in ways that are profoundly different from archeology focused in other areas.

Assignment of Activities

The assignment sheet will be posted as soon as possible each evening at Headquarters and all participants should be sure to **check the assignment sheet each morning** before heading to seminars, field, or lab for possible changes. All participants are responsible for adhering to the assignments given to them. The assignments given and any possible changes made reflect where workers are most needed in the lab and in the field in order to accomplish research goals. Any requests to be moved to another work area or to have time off must be done in advance and first brought to the Training Program Director for approval and then communicated to Rachael Wiest at Headquarters. The Training Program Director this year, Dr. Paige Ford, will make final assignments and participants must abide by the decision.

First Packet of Information

Registrants will receive a detailed information packet and seminar assignment information shortly after May 11. Please indicate on the Registration Form if you would like to receive the information packet by email for faster arrival. A second packet with additional information will be distributed at Training Program Headquarters upon check-in.

Tools of the Trade

You may want to build your own personal excavation kit. The Society has a basic toolkit for sale at Headquarters. Items include a 3-meter metric measuring tape, a Marshalltown trowel, and a string line-

level. Also for sale are textbooks for seminars, t-shirts, ARAS and AAS publications, and memorabilia. You will need to purchase the following items prior to arrival the the Training Program: a clipboard to hold all your paperwork, sturdy gloves, and pencils. A list of recommended supplies will be in the first packet of information that will be sent to registrants. We will have coffee each morning, but we encourage you to bring your own reusable travel mug! We accept credit cards at Headquarters, but remember to bring your check-book or cash as backup in case technology fails us!

Weather and Wildlife


You can generally count on the weather to be hot and very unpredictable in Arkansas in the summertime (and especially muggy in the central part of the state). Come prepared for any kind of weather. Be sure to bring plenty of insect repellent for ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes. We will have sun shades out in the field to provide protection from the sun and lots of water, so be sure to bring a water bottle! Bring lots of sunscreen and reapply often. A good hat with a wide brim and wearing long sleeves will help you too. There may be wildlife in the campground and at the site. Make sure you secure your food and tents at the camping areas in the evening and before going out to the field. Please pick up the trash at the site before coming in from the field each day as well. There will likely be rain, even some strong thunderstorms, so be prepared with rain gear too. Sturdy boots are also a good idea.

The Bottom Line

We have a great opportunity here to learn a lot about Arkansas's past! This is the most inexpensive archeological training experience available within the United States. What better way to learn about Arkansas archeology and do archeology in an ethical way? If you are reading this and considering registering for the Training Program, that means that you share the same interests as so many current AAS members and so many before you—the love of the outdoors, the love of people, history, science, anthropology, archeology, and learning, participating, and contributing to something that will benefit more than just you.

You are a volunteer! Without you, none of this would be possible! If you attend this dig, you will find more than just dirt, sweat, and bug bites. You will find old friends, new friends, and camaraderie unlike anywhere else. This program is an opportunity to create lifelong memories, so come join in on the fun!

***Please note that this information is subject to change, so please read all new information distributed ahead of the program.**



Registration is now open!
Present a poster or organize a poster symposium!
Deadline May 15, 2026


SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
OCTOBER 14-17, 2026

PALEOAMERICAN ODYSSEY

CONFERENCE ON THE LATE PLEISTOCENE
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Attend and participate in a three-day examination of the story of the first people to explore and settle the Americas at the end of the last Ice Age.

Scan the QR code or go to www.centerfirstamericans.com to

- Learn more about the conference
- Register to attend
- Find hotel information

Hester Davis Arkansas Archeological Society Archeology Training Program Scholarship

Hester A. Davis (1930–2014) was an American archeologist, and as Arkansas's first State Archeologist, she was instrumental in creating national public policy and conservancy standards for cultural preservation, as well as developing professional and ethical standards for archeologists. She was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including two distinguished service awards and induction into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame. This scholarship is offered in her memory.

This scholarship applies to the joint Annual Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS) & Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) Training Program only. We do not fund other field schools.

AAS members 18 and older, who are currently enrolled in college or graduate school and who are majoring, or planning to major, in archeology, anthropology, or a related field (e.g., cultural studies, museum studies, geography, etc.) are eligible to apply for scholarship support. Rising freshmen, or recent college graduates who will be enrolling in a graduate program in the next academic year, are also eligible. Please note that the number of scholarships awarded will be limited to the annual amount of interest from which the scholarship funds are drawn. To apply, please submit the following:

- A completed Training Program Registration Form listing your expenses (note: T-shirts are not included in this grant), along with the Project Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver form. We pay registration, camping fee for one person, and electricity (if used). We will fund a \$100 stipend for food and gas for one-week applicants and \$150 stipend for two-week applicants. This scholarship will also include an AAS student membership for the current calendar year. This includes emailed or mailed print copies of our publications: the Arkansas Archeologist and Field Notes. Visit <https://www.arkarch.org/activities/the-training-program/> for a Training Program Registration form. You will need to print out your registration form—do not submit through the website. It must be printed and mailed or scanned and sent by email.
- Statement of Interest (1-2 pages) describing your interest in archaeology, future education and career plans, and why the Training Program will benefit you as you work toward your goals. Applicants should indicate if they wish to attend one or two weeks of the training program. Please include discussion of any seminars you will attend and how these classes will help you attain your goals. Our Training Program is often applicable to college credit hours—check with your advisor.
- A list of college courses and other relevant training you have taken. Please indicate where and when.
- One letter of reference from a professor or instructor which may be mailed or emailed separately by your professor or instructor to the address below.

Applications are accepted until April 14 for the following June Training Program and must be post marked accordingly to be accepted. All items requested must either be on paper and mailed or scanned and sent electronically to the contact below.

Email: aasociety@arkarch.org
rmartin@uark.edu (Rachael Wiest)



Arkansas Archeological Society
ATTN: Training Program Scholarship
2475 N. Hatch Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Join or Renew Your Membership for 2026

All yearly Society memberships follow the calendar year beginning with January; members who renew from January through September will receive back issues of missed publications; if joining or renewing after October 1st, your membership (and publications) will begin the following January. (Life & Benefactor members do not need to renew but please notify us with any change of address.)

You can use the form below to join by mail OR join/renew online at <http://arkarch.org/register/>

For change of address, questions about membership or subscriptions: Please contact the Arkansas Archeological Society, 2475 North Hatch Ave., Fayetteville, AR, 72704, aaasociety@arkarch.org.

Information for Contributors

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send articles to *Field Notes* in Word. Minimal formatting should be applied to the text. Use of bold and *italic* is all right. Use a common, boring font like Times New Roman. Send any illustrations that will accompany the article as separate files, do NOT embed them in the Word document. Preferred graphic formats are tiff or jpg but pdf will also often be acceptable. All illustrations (photos, maps, line art, and any other type of graphic) should be produced at 300 dpi, and graphic files submitted for publication should be sized NO SMALLER than 300 dpi resolution with a physical size (that is, image dimensions in inches) at least 4x6 inches. If you know the image should be reproduced at full page in order to be readable, make sure it is sized NO SMALLER than 300 dpi resolution and 8x10 inches physical dimension. Tables can be sent as separate Excel files (preferred for large tables) or typed into the Word document. PLEASE DO NOT EMBED ILLUSTRATIONS INTO THE WORD DOCX OR ANY OTHER APPLICATION, AND DO NOT SEND YOUR ARTICLE AS A PDF. If for some reason you cannot meet these standards, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me and I will help you find another way to submit your material. Thank you!

Julia Fan, Editor (juliaf@uark.edu)

MEMBERSHIPS
Annual Payment Plans

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Business | \$100.00 |
| Institution/Agency | \$35.00 |
| Supporting | \$35.00 |
| Active | \$25.00 |
| Family (each add'l person) | \$2.00 (see Notes below) |
| Student (K–12 & UG) | \$10.00 |

Single Payment Plans

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Benefactor/Joint Benefactor | \$500.00 / \$600.00 |
| Life/Joint Life | \$300.00 / \$350.00 |

(Joint Memberships are Member + Spouse)

First Class Postage

Save delivery time. \$7.50 additional per year.

New Address? Renewal? New Member? **2026**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONES: Home [] _____
 Work [] _____
 E-mail: _____

Go paperless: I would like my copy of *Field Notes* e-mailed to me.

*Names of paid Family Memberships: _____

| | |
|--|----------|
| Total Memberships or Subscriptions | \$ _____ |
| 1 st Class Postage for <i>Field Notes</i> (\$7.50) (optional) | \$ _____ |

Donations:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Archeological Research Fund | \$ _____ |
| Bill Jordan Public Education/Archeology Month Fund | \$ _____ |
| Unspecified Gift | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL REMITTANCE | \$ _____ |

Yes, I would like a receipt for my donation.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES:
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP is for K–12 and university undergraduate students. Only *Field Notes* is sent. Cannot add Family members.
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$2.00 each additional person when 1 person is already a full member (Active, Supporting, Benefactor, or Life). Only the full member receives publications.
BENEFACTOR, LIFE, & related JOINT memberships may be paid in two equal annual payments.
BUSINESS has membership privileges. **INSTITUTIONAL** is subscription only.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Database _____ AC _____
 Electronic FN _____ L _____
 RN _____ CK# _____

Yearly memberships run from January until December. Note that local chapter membership forms and dues are separate from the statewide organization.

Send this form and make checks payable to :
ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2475 N. Hatch Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72704
www.arkarch.org

I heard about the Society:

On TV On the Radio In the Newspaper On the Web Through a friend Other _____

Field Notes
Of the
Arkansas Archeological Society
[ISSN 0015-0711]
2475 N HATCH AVE.
FAYETTEVILLE AR 72704

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www.arkarch.org

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Steve Longacre, Rogers
(2026–2028)

PAST PRESIDENT

James Rees, Fayetteville

TREASURER

Jannette Akridge, Fayetteville
(2025–2027)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Liley Bozard, Fayetteville (2025-2026)
Anthony Clay Newton, Magnolia (2025-2026)
Gillian Bjornen, Springdale (2026-2028)
Shayla Grimmert, Little Rock (2026–2028)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Steve Jacober, Trenton IL (2025–2027)

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Glen Akridge – *Bulletin*
Julia Fan – *Field Notes*

CHAIR, BOARD OF ADVISORS

Gary Knudsen, Russellville

CHAIR, SITE STEWARDSHIP

COMMITTEE

Ruth O’Loughlin, Lake Village

Arkansas Archeological Society Chapters

Three Rivers Chapter, Mountain Home meets the second Saturday of the month in January, March, May, August, and October at 1pm at the Don Reynolds Library in Mountain Home. Contact: Mark Shockley 870-404-6907; shockark@gmail.com or check out their [Facebook](#) page for monthly meeting information.

Arkansas River Valley Chapter, Russellville meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 pm at Arkansas Tech University Campus at the Ross Pendergraft Library, 305 W Q St., Russellville, AR 72801. Contact: Riley Chronister, rchronister4@atu.edu

Central Arkansas Chapter, Little Rock Contact: Katy Gregory, kwg001@uark.edu

Ouachita Chapter, Hot Springs meets monthly (except June) on the first Tuesday at 7 pm, ASMSA board room, 200 Whittington, Hot Springs. Contact: ouachitachapter@gmail.com or Mary Beth Trubitt 870-230-5510.

Ko-ko-çi Chapter, Fayetteville meets monthly (except Jan. & June–Aug.) on the second Wednesday evening at the ARAS Coordinating Office. Contact: Gillian Bjornen gillian.steen@gmail.com

Central Mississippi Valley Chapter, Jonesboro meets monthly (except June–Aug.) at the ASU Museum. For details contact: Julie Morrow 870-972-2071; jemorro@uark.edu

Red River Chapter, Magnolia meets monthly (except June–Aug.) on the second Wednesday evening at the Donald W. Reynolds Campus & Community Center, SAU. Contact: Carl Drexler 870-235-4230; cdrexler@uark.edu

Tunican Chapter, Monticello meetings can vary in frequency and location, typically on UAM campus. Contact: Sunni Deb Weaver sunnidw@uark.edu

Project Participation Agreement, Release and Waiver

I, the undersigned Participant, hereby execute and deliver to the Arkansas Archeological Society (“Society”) this Project Participation Agreement, Release and Waiver (the “Agreement”) as of the date set forth below. For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the fieldwork, educational activities, and training described below, I hereby agree as follows:

The activities that I have agreed to participate in (the “Activities”) are described as follows:

- **Project Site:** 2026 Arkansas Archeological Society/Arkansas Archeological Survey Training Program, Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park and Winfrey Site
- **Location:** Scott, Arkansas
- **Dates:** May 29, 2026 through June 14, 2026
- **Survey Project Archeologist(s):** Arkansas Archeological Survey, PBM Research Station, Dr. Paige Ford
- **Activities:** Archeological excavation, analysis of recovered materials, instruction, and training, etc.

The term “Project Site” as used herein includes excavation location, classroom, seminar site, lab facilities, campground, surveying site, vehicle parking area, and other places where Activities are conducted.

1. I hereby request to participate in the foregoing Activities, and the Society hereby agrees to allow my participation in the Activities, without compensation paid to me by Society or any affiliated organization. I agree to pay any and all amounts required for participation in the Activities at or prior to the deadline stated by Society at its sole discretion.
2. I am aware that field work and all other archeological work requires physical exertion which is very strenuous and includes a risk of loss of or damage to personal property and serious personal injury or death to myself or others. I am fully aware of and understand the scope, nature, and extent of the risks and hazards involved in the Activities contemplated by this Agreement. I voluntarily assume and freely choose to incur any and all such risks of loss, damage, injury or death, including, but not limited to, the loss caused in whole or in part by the unintended conduct of Society and its staff and volunteers.
3. I hereby represent that I am physically fit to receive and participate in the Activities. I acknowledge that I have been advised to consult with a physician regarding my participation in Activities and that my physician has confirmed to me that I have no medical condition which would affect my full participation in the Activities. I hereby willingly assume responsibility for any risks that I expose myself to and accept full responsibility for any injury or death that may result from participating in the Activities. I for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and anyone else who may claim on my behalf, forever WAIVE, RELEASE and DISCHARGE Society, and/or its officers, directors, representatives, instructors, agents or employees, subsidiaries, or assigns from any and all claims, liability and damages, actions, causes of actions, causes of action and suits of any kind or nature I may now or in the future have arising by any means whatsoever, from or in connection with my participation in the Activities.
4. I will hold harmless and indemnify Society, its directors, officers, representatives, instructors, agents or employees, subsidiaries, or assigns from any and all liability for any damage or injury to any person or any property belonging to Society or any third party, resulting from my actions, including my involvement in or presence during any of the Activities.
5. Society or its designated party may photograph or film me while on any site or location being used by Society or participating in the Activities, and I hereby authorize the use of my image, any and all such photos, video footage and/or video streaming for promotion, sales, publicity and advertising purposes for all media, including, but not limited to, the internet.

6. I will comply at all times with all rules and regulations of the Society and all instructions of Survey Project Archeologist, whether oral or written, including but not limited to the Project Regulations. I understand that failure to comply with the rules and regulations will result in my expulsion from the Activities.

7. I agree to collect and/or excavate archeological material only in specifically designated areas when, where, and as instructed by the Project Archeologist. I will not collect any artifacts from the surface of the site without the Project Director's authorization. I agree to leave each artifact in place and notify the Project Archeologist as to the location.

8. I shall have no right, title, or interest in any artifact and records resulting from the Activities. I will not keep anything found during the Activities. I understand that failure to comply with the foregoing rules will result in my expulsion from the Activities.

9. I will fully comply with Emergency Response Plan at the Project Site.

10. I will confirm that this Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between me and Society, and it supersedes all prior communications, proposals, representations and agreements, whether oral or written with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. The terms of this Agreement shall be subject to Society's Bylaws and its Code of Ethics, which may be revised, at the sole discretion of Society, from time to time.

11. I acknowledge I have read and understand this Agreement, agree to its terms and conditions, agree that the terms of this Agreement are clear and fair, and that I have entered into this Agreement willingly.

12. I agree and acknowledge that I am receiving personal benefit from the performance of the Agreement.

13. I understand my rights and obligations as stated above. I confirm that I am at least the full age of eighteen years (unless otherwise indicated below) and I am aware that by signing this Agreement I am waiving certain legal rights, including the right to claim damages which I or my heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns may have against Society.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants of the Arkansas Archeological Society agree to abide by and support the following Code of Conduct while participating or serving in a formal capacity during the Training Program in Archeology.

1. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance:** Participants will follow the letter and spirit of all laws, ordinances, and regulations as issued by local, state, and federal jurisdictions; and University of Arkansas policies. This includes, but is not limited to:

- No underage use of alcohol.
- No illegal drug use.

2. **Non-Discrimination:** Participants will not discriminate based on an individual's actual, perceived, or association with race/color; national or ethnic origin; age; religion; disability; sex; sexual orientation; gender; gender identity and expression; marital or parental status; military or veteran status; genetic information; and any other protected characteristic.

3. **Harassment-Free Environment:** Regardless of age or gender, participants will not commit sexual harassment or acts of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, bullying, intimidating, or creating a hostile environment against any fellow members, guests, visitors, or other persons working with or for the Arkansas Archeological Society, the Arkansas Archeological Survey, or their collaborators.

4. **Abuse of Office:** Participants who are elected or appointed to offices with the Arkansas Archeological Society will not abuse the trust and authority provided by their position for any reason.

5. **Policy Compliance:** Participants will fully comply with the policies set forth by the local, state, and federal agencies when using the facilities of those agencies provided for Arkansas Archeological Society activities.

6. **Safety, Health, and Security:** Participants will follow all applicable safety, health, and security rules and

guidelines, observe safe work habits and be aware of the safety of others. Unsafe, unhealthy, or insecure working conditions should be immediately reported to those in charge of the activity.

7. **Plagiarism and Academic Fraud:** Participants will not claim as their own or misappropriate the ideas of others in their written or oral communications without giving appropriate credit to the originator(s) of those ideas, nor will they deliberately misrepresent the ideas or writings of others, or fabricate archeological research results with the intent to deceive or defraud.

8. **Freedom from Retaliation:** Participants will not retaliate on any person (witness, complainant, or respondent) involved in an investigation by the Executive Board and/or University of Arkansas for their participation in the fact-finding process associated with a reported violation of the Code of Conduct.

9. **False Reporting:** Participants will not willfully make a false report(s) of a violation(s) of the Code of Conduct.

10. **Disciplinary Action:** Any participant who violates any Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the Arkansas Archeological Society.

11. **Reporting of Violations:** Violations of the Code of Conduct should be reported to Dr. Alex Barker, Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, or to any member of the Arkansas Archeological Society's Executive Board.

In witness whereof, I have executed this release and the above terms, as of (date): _____.

Participant's Printed Name: _____.

Signature of Participant: _____.

(or)

Signature of Participant's Legal Guardian: _____.

Legal Guardian's Printed Name: _____.

2026 ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL TRAINING PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM. One form must be filled out by each participant.

*Be sure to also fill out the signature page of Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver (insert-3).
 EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1. AFTER MAY 11, NO NEW REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AND NO REFUNDS.
Attendees must be 2026 Statewide AASociety members to attend the Training Program. If you are **NOT** currently a member, see our website, www.arkarch.org, to become a member.
 Please include your membership form and fees with the Registration Form and your signed Participation Agreement if you are submitting by mail.

Name/Name to appear on badge _____ Pronouns (optional) _____ if under 18, who will be your guardian at the training program? _____

Phone () _____ Do you accept texts? Yes No Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Please email the 1st packet to me! Date of the last AAS Training Program attendance (if applicable) _____

First AASociety Training Program? You need to take Orientation. If you need to take Orientation, or want a refresher, please choose one:

Saturday, May 30 (7 am) Sunday, May 31 (11:30 am) Monday, June 1 (7 am) Friday, June 5 (11:30 am) Monday, June 8 (1 pm)

Check what applies to you: I prefer field work I prefer lab work I have no preference I am a STUDENT looking to receive credit for attending the Training Program!

SEMINARS (Optional): Participants may take only 1 seminar each session. See Field Notes for requirements, descriptions, and limitations.

- Session 1** (Monday, June 1–Friday, June 5): **Special Interest Workshop** (Sunday, June 7)
 _____ Site Stewardship Training (full-day)
Session 2 (Tuesday, June 9–Saturday, June 13):
 _____ Basic Excavation (full-day)
 _____ Site Survey (full-day)
 _____ Basic Lab (half-day, PM)
 _____ Lithic Analysis (half-day, PM)
 _____ Historical Archeology (full-day)

"I will arrive and check in at Headquarters on May/June _____."

"I intend to begin my participation (orientation/class/field/lab) on May/June _____."

"My last day of work will be June _____." *Please let Rachael know if any of these dates change.*

"I will be leaving to return home on June _____."

T-SHIRT PRE-ORDER (available through May 1): Indicate size and number needed. Shirts may be available on site but size availability is not guaranteed.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---|-------|----------------------|------------|
| Adult S, M, L, XL, | (# | & | size) | = \$ | (subtotal) |
| 2XL, 3XL | \$15 x | | | = \$ | |
| | \$15 x | | | = \$ | |
| | | | | T-shirt total | \$ |

REGISTRATION FEES

(Postmarked by May 1) (Postmarked After May 2)
 1 to 4 days \$45 \$60
 5 to 8 days \$50 \$65
 9 to 16 days \$55 \$70
 Tribal Member free with Tribally issued ID or CDIB card (must show at check-in)

LODGING

TYPE OF LODGING: (Society campground is for registered attendees only.)

Tent Pop-up RV size? _____ ft. Hotel Other, please explain: _____

SOCIETY CAMPING FEES: (Indicate the # of days)

Tent: \$12 x # of days: _____ = \$ _____ Pop-up camper: \$16 x # of days: _____ = \$ _____ RVs: \$22 x # of days: _____ = \$ _____
 If sharing tent/camper with someone else who is paying, write their name below and leave \$ above blank: _____

Total Charges

\$ _____

Questions???

Contact Rachel Wiest
 479-575-3557 or rwiest@uark.edu

Please mail forms and make checks payable to:

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 2475 N. Hatch Ave.
 Fayetteville, AR 72704



We seek to make our programs welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for all. If you require an accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, contact us: aasociety@arkarch.org