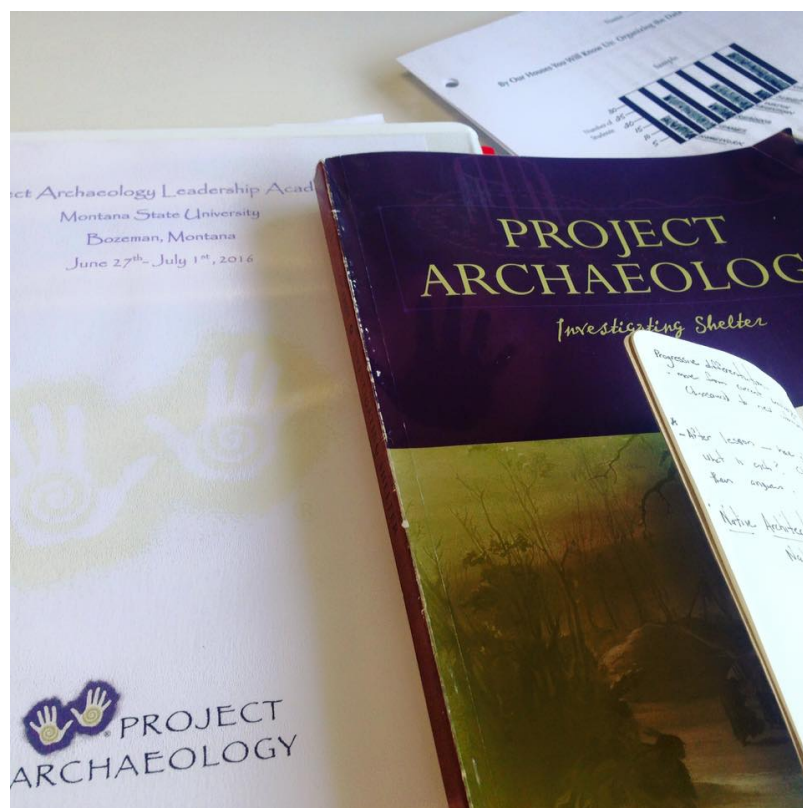


PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS

July 29, 2016 Jodi Barnes Day of Archaeology 2016, Education, Public Archaeology ARarch, Arkansas, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Day of Archaeology, education, project archaeology, Public archaeology, Teaching

Because archaeological sites are endangered and finite resources, I spend a lot of my time doing archaeological education encouraging people to care about and protect sites. I teach in a university setting, but I also do youth programs to help teach young people to be stewards of the past. This year, I have spent many of my days of archaeology co-writing a 5th grade (age 10-11) social studies curriculum about archaeology and plant-based foodways in the southeastern United States. The curriculum, which focuses on sites in Arkansas, will be aligned with [common core standards](#) to promote and enhance archeological education in Arkansas's public schools.



Project Archaeology Leadership Academy course materials.

Like the majority of archaeologists, I didn't learn how to teach archaeology to the public in college. Fortunately, I don't have to reinvent the wheel. This summer, I attended the [Project Archaeology](#) Leadership Academy in Bozeman, Montana. Project Archaeology is "an educational organization dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources." They are a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers across the country through high-quality educational materials and professional development. Each year, they offer a Leadership Academy to teach educators (and archaeologists) to use [Investigating Shelter](#), an inquiry-based Social Studies and Science curriculum, and empower them with educating their peers on how to implement the curriculum in the classroom.



Workshop participants visited Madison Buffalo Jump State Park

It was a fun week of learning new ways to teach archaeology, visiting [Madison Buffalo Jump State Park](#) and the [Museum of the Rockies](#), and meeting educators and archaeologists from around the country. The 5-day workshop underscored the importance of working with descendants to learn about the past, how archaeology contributes to inquiry-based learning, ways to connect archaeological education to [common core standards](#), and a lot more.



Dr. Emerson Bull Chief, Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, talking about Native American buffalo stories.



Panorama of Madison Buffalo Jump State Park.

When I was an undergraduate student, if someone asked me: “What does an archaeologist do?”, it never would have occurred to me that archaeologists teach educators (and other people) to teach about the past. This is changing as archaeologists have come to recognize the importance of working with communities and teaching others to think like archaeologists. But I hadn’t thought about how important it is to teach educators to teach archaeology until Courtney Agenten pointed it out during the workshop. As an archaeologist, I have taught an archaeology camp for 10-15 students, [which I wrote about last year](#). The students learned about the process of archaeology from excavation to lab work and from artifact analysis to report writing. In the process, they developed a love for learning about and preserving the past. But if I teach 10-15 educators to teach archaeology in their science or social studies classes, in one year, those teachers have the potential to teach 250-375 students about the importance of archaeology. That’s a huge impact if you think about how many students could be reached in 10 years!

So now as I sit at my desk in front of my computer, like so many of my days of archaeology, I am inspired by my experience at the Project Archaeology Leadership Academy to teach their fun curricula about shelter and nutrition. I am also motivated to continue to develop high-quality lesson plans focused on archaeological sites in Arkansas that teachers can implement in their classrooms. Thanks to the support of the [Southeastern Archaeological Conference](#), the [Arkansas Archeological Society](#), the [Arkansas Humanities Council](#), and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the curriculum should be available this fall. Check out the [Arkansas Archeological Survey’s website](#) for classroom materials currently available to teachers and keep an eye out for new things to come. arkansasarcheology.org