



Careers in Archaeology Education

The arena of Public Archaeology is *evolving exponentially*. Beyond being a realm of *applied practice* done by (a) educators with archaeology experience and/or (b) archaeologists with educational interests, Public Archaeology now forms: (a) a sub-specialty of theoretical academic practice (e.g., Ph.D. dissertations, MA theses, taught courses and college/university programs) and (b) more and more often, Public Archaeology is being required or offered as a mitigation option in Cultural Resources Management. Moreover, there is an increase in hybrid professionals as Public Archaeology matures. Archaeology Educators more and more often partake in *collaborative efforts* done not by one archaeologist, one educator, or one institution but by a combination of any of these (e.g., individuals having formal training in *both* archaeology and K-12 education, some with formal park interpretation training, etc.) *Public Archaeology involves engaging the public in order to share archaeological findings and/or promote stewardship of cultural resources or to otherwise make archaeology relevant to society by providing the public with the means for constructing their own past. As McDavid explains (2002:2), "this growing field of archaeological research includes theoretical and practical work in archaeological heritage management (AHM), archaeological education, museum archaeology, the sociopolitics of archaeology, Cultural Resources Management (CRM), and a number of other arenas in which archaeologists and their publics interact"* (McDavid, Carol, 2002 From Real Space to Cyberspace: The Internet and Public Archaeological Practice. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Cambridge). Below are descriptions of several jobs in archaeology education. This list is neither complete nor exhaustive, as archaeology education is an ever-changing field. Not included in the following descriptions are the numerous ways academic archaeologists can be involved in archaeology education.

Careers in Museums: Archaeology Educator

Several museums offer content-specific positions within their education departments. An archaeology educator can be responsible for developing and implementing archaeology and Native American programs to school and public audiences. Programs may include summer camps, school workshops, school tours, teaching trunks, lesson plans, public events, distance learning programs, field programs, teacher workshops and gallery demonstrations.

Education needed: Bachelors or masters degree in anthropology or archaeology is required with some field experience. Prior experience working in a museum or other educational setting is preferred. The position requires excellent public speaking skills and writing skills.

Work environment: A workweek may be Monday through Friday or Tuesday through Saturday with some evenings, holidays, and/or weekends required. The position would likely involve some fieldwork as well as deskwork and interpretive work with the public.

Careers in Cultural Resource Management: Public Outreach and Archaeological Education

More and more, archaeological consulting companies hire individuals who specialize in archaeological education and the development of public programs. Rarely are the programs full-time positions, so combining desirable skills and training in archaeology and education with other specialties such as illustration, field or lab work, or analysis will benefit those looking for a full-time position.

The development of public programs is project and contract specific. The inclusion of outreach efforts should be considered at the time the proposal or plan-of-work is written, taking into consideration location, safety, visibility, accessibility, and audience. Depending on the circumstances, outreach may include site tours, school visits, PowerPoint presentations, and or the creation of educational materials, brochures, booklets, or interpretive signage.

Education: A degree in anthropology or archaeology with experience in both archaeology and education or a degree in education is advisable. Specialization in a specific geographic area is not necessary, but the ability to take the scientific interpretation of the past and weave story for the general public is a must.

Work environment: Those entering the field of archaeological education and public outreach can expect to spend time in the field and in front of the computer monitor.

Careers in Academic/State Agencies: Director Education/Outreach

A very few state agencies and some universities have established part-time directors of education and outreach. Such a position requires a basic knowledge of archaeology and regional culture history; familiarity with basic principles of formal education; demonstrated writing and oral skills; and the ability to positively and effectively interact with the public, including teachers, students, state and local organizations, and Native American groups. This position is responsible for conceptualizing, preparing, and distributing multifaceted archaeology and Native American

programs (services and resources) to schools and public audiences, and procuring funding (grant writing). Such programs include annual archaeology week or month celebrations, traveling exhibits and materials, multimedia resources, workshops, and field and lab experiences.

Education needed: Masters degree in anthropology or archaeology is required with museum education or formal education courses highly desirable. The position requires excellent public speaking and writing skills. Familiarity with grant writing is also desirable.

Work environment: A part-time position would require 3-4 days per week with frequent evening and weekend hours. The position involves considerable travel, fieldwork, deskwork, and interpretive work with the public, and partnering with educational, historical, cultural, and environmental organizations, other university units, and state agencies.

Careers in Parks

Interpretive Archaeologists / Archaeological Interpreters

Over 63,000 archaeological sites are preserved by the National Park Service in the United States. State and local parks care for thousands more. Park interpreters with backgrounds in archaeology are employed at these parks as tour guides, park rangers, trainers, managers and planners. Depending on the position, duties can include everything from conducting site tours, demonstrations, and public programs to the design of trail or roadside signs, brochures, exhibits, booklets, press releases, and reconstructions. Some are called upon to help create master plans for park development or to manage and train other park staff.

Employers are seeking individuals that can effectively engage the hearts and minds of non-captive audiences, so the more illustrative techniques you master the better (from Power Point to flint knapping to tale telling and more). They are seeking specialists that can help visitors forge personal, meaningful connections with the resource; specialists with the knowledge, skills and abilities for encouraging people to care about and ultimately to care for, archaeological sites.

Education needed: A degree in anthropology (or history) with a specialization in archaeology plus additional training and experience in interpretive theory and practice. Classes in park interpretation can often be found in forestry or recreation departments in colleges. Fortunately, individuals unable to obtain these classes in college can receive training and certification in interpretive specialties from the National Association for Interpretation (www.interpret.net <<http://www.interpret.net/>>). The National Park Service

also offers learning modules, including "Interpretation for Archaeologists" through their Interpretive Development Program (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/ifora/>). Since knowledge of the audience is equally important as archaeological knowledge in these careers, classes in anthropology, visitor studies, or learning theory are helpful.

Work environment: Park interpreters work and live in very special places, locations that others seek out on their vacations. A workweek will likely include weekends and some holidays, but some jobs, especially as you advance into an administrative level, operate on a standard Monday to Friday workweek.

Careers in Federal Government Cultural Resource Management: Public Outreach and Archaeological Education

Federal government careers in archaeological public outreach and education are available in most departments and agencies, though not in great quantities. These positions are usually combined with other cultural resource management work. They are rarely full time, unless they are located in museums or interpretive centers. Knowledge of archaeology or history is required of cultural resource positions; study of related fields such as museum studies, interpretation, and education will strengthen your abilities to secure a government position in public outreach and archaeological education. Skills in writing and editing also strengthen a résumé.

Public outreach and education for the federal government is a varied field. Cultural Resource specialists might work as a part of a team, which does nothing but outreach. With visitation of Western public lands on the rise, the number of cultural resource visitor centers is on the rise. These centers provide visitor services, interpretation, and education. Cultural Resource Specialists working in field situations will find that public outreach often takes a back seat to other development compliance work.

Special Student Recruitment Programs: The federal government has special student recruitment programs. Some of these will provide funds for tuition, on-the-job training, and a position upon graduation. Visit <http://www.studentjobs.gov/>

Education: A degree in anthropology or archaeology with experience in both archaeology and education or a degree in education, museum studies, or interpretation is advisable. Specialization in a specific geographic area is not necessary,

Work environment: Those entering the field of federal archaeological education and public outreach can expect to spend time in front of the computer monitor, making presentations to diverse audiences, and an occasional visit to the field.