



Archeology in the NPS



Archeologists and volunteers excavate a site. (NPS photo)

What is Archeology?

Archeology is the scientific study of past peoples and their cultures through their places and things. Archeologists conduct research, excavate sites, analyze artifacts, write reports, and share finds with you.

Archeologists look for evidence of people's lives, choices, beliefs, and behaviors. They locate historical places, the ways people lived and worked, and patterns of human life over time and space.

In the United States, much archeology is conducted in compliance with federal laws, especially the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Protection Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Archeology on NPS lands is conducted using public funds for the public's benefit in compliance with federal law.



Visit national parks to learn about archeology (NPS photo).

Why is NPS Archeology Special?

The NPS mission is to preserve and protect cultural and natural resources for this and future generations. The National Park System includes over 400 parks as well as trails, heritage areas, rivers, and more. The NPS manages over 80,000 sites on park lands and 38 million artifacts in curatorial facilities, as well as photos and associated documentation. NPS collaborates with state, local, and tribal partners to be stewards of this irreplaceable heritage.

No other country has the depth and breadth of archeological heritage preserved in national parks. NPS lands represent the diverse themes of American history and our international connections: the earliest Native American settlers, colonial explorers and traders, Japanese internment camps, presidents' homes, and much more. Archeological resources inspire us and provide many educational and recreational opportunities.

Join Us!

Volunteer < www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm >

Internships < www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/jobs-and-internships.htm >

Jobs < www.usajobs.gov >

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