

# KATP FIELD SCHOOL

## SPONSORS

The Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school is held for two weeks each year, beginning in late May or early June, usually on the Friday and Saturday following Memorial Day. From that Saturday the field school runs without any break through three weekends and the two intervening weeks. The sponsors are the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS or Society) and the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA). In some years KSHS and KAA cooperate with additional partners.

The KATP is one of the Society's primary research and educational programs, and it affords KAA members the opportunity to participate in original research under the supervision of professional archeologists and to further their knowledge of archeological methods and theory. The KSHS functions as the lead organization entity in planning, directing, and documenting all phases of the archeological investigations that are conducted through the field school. All archeological records and materials generated by the field school are the responsibility of the KSHS, a state agency. The KAA provides a reliable and highly trained cadre of volunteers to assist in archeological endeavors that are undertaken as part of the field school. The KSHS and the KAA share responsibilities for publicity and evening programs associated with the field school, which is designed as a public archeology program to educate interested people about Kansas archeology.

## COMPONENTS

The KATP field school generally consists of four primary components:

1. systematic block excavations of an archeological site or an archeological site survey;
2. processing of artifacts in a field laboratory;
3. formal classes in archeology and historic preservation; and
4. the certification program.

In lean economic times the field school has pulled back to lab work or survey for a 10-day period.

## GOALS

1. To provide education in archeology through hands-on experience and formal classes on focused topics. Such intensive training allows quality scientific work to be accomplished at significant archeological sites.
2. To enable the investigation of sites for which there is no other research funding. KATP participants provide a skilled and highly motivated volunteer work force, allowing much needed research on sites that otherwise would be neglected. Furthermore, KATP-trained individuals can contribute outside the field school by recording newly found

sites, reporting on the condition of sites in their home area, and working on emergency digs to prevent the loss of information from threatened sites.

3. To process as much as possible in the field laboratory. Because KATP investigations usually are not tied to development, no additional funds are available for laboratory processing of collected materials.

4. To bring together individuals from Kansas and elsewhere who share a common interest in archeology. The camaraderie that comes from the renewal of old friendships, the forging of new ones, and the dedication to a common purpose makes the two weeks a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Participants must be at least 12 years of age, and those younger than 14 must plan to work with a parent or other sponsoring adult at all times. Participants between 14 and 18 years of age must be accompanied on the project by a legally responsible adult. Special needs participants of any age should be accompanied by a sponsor at all times. Pets are not allowed.

2. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to become members of the Kansas Anthropological Association and/or the Kansas Historical Foundation (KHF). Membership may be obtained by submitting a membership application for either organization.

A variety of membership options are available for the KAA, including individual, family, and student. The student membership is of a limited nature, enabling students to attend the field school and take classes, but not entitling them to receive KAA publications. All other KAA members receive four newsletters and *The Kansas Anthropologist* (the annual KAA journal).

Membership categories for KHF, include individual and household. Among other annual benefits, members receive four issues of the journal, *Kansas History*.

3. A modest project fee is required of all participants to help cover the costs of running the field school. The fee is reduced for members of the KAA or KHF. Fees must be submitted with completed registration forms.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to the project, lodging, and food. Suggestions for places to stay, camp, eat, and shop are included in the registration packet for each project.

4. Before taking part in field school activities, all participants must check in once at the registration desk at the local project headquarters. This desk is staffed only between 7 and 7:30 AM each day.

All participants must then attend an orientation session, dealing with the goals of the program and archeological background of the project area. Orientation is offered daily from 8 to 9 AM.

If participants are new to the KATP, they must take the Principles of Archeology course. This class follows Orientation each morning. Members who have attended the full-length Principles lecture at a previous KATP field school are not required to repeat the session.

5. The training program is a serious scientific effort, and procedures and protocol must be followed at all times. It is neither ethical nor permissible for participants or guests to take artifacts from any of the sites that are investigated as part of the field school. Each participant is required to complete certain written records, which become part of the permanent site file. All accumulated records and artifacts are curated by the KSHS in Topeka. These materials are accessible for study to all serious researchers and as specimen loans to qualified institutions, be they state, county, or municipal organizations.

6. Participation in the program may be from a single day to the entire period. However, commitment to at least four hours at a time, beginning at either 8 AM or 1 PM, is required. Being ready to work at 8 or 1 is critical, and transportation and meals should be planned accordingly.

A completed scheduling form, included in the project registration packet, must be returned for each participant with the registration form. Fluctuations in enrollment on any given day may necessitate assigning workers to an activity other than the first choice requested on the scheduling form. Those submitting registration forms at the last minute, should bring the materials with them rather than mailing them to the Topeka office.

If a participant must leave the project before his/her stated departure time, he/she should notify personnel at the project headquarters about the change of plans. The final day is a wrap-up day, and only necessary fieldwork and packing up is undertaken.

The KSHS and the KAA do not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of their programs. The KSHS requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with disabilities or special needs.

## FIELDWORK

Payment of field school fees and completion of Orientation and Principles of Archeology sessions are prerequisites for participation. On certain projects first-time participants may be excluded from fieldwork on the first day. Throughout, all participants are asked to commit at least a four-hour block of time to an activity.

Logistical details, including where participants will assemble daily to form crews, are announced in Orientation. Workers are usually encouraged to carpool whenever possible. Participants who spend all day in the field should plan to carry a lunch.

Each surveyor or excavator should provide his own hand tools and basic recording supplies. During the course of the day, each worker is required to complete and submit certain written records, which become part of the permanent site file at the KSHS in Topeka. Depending upon experience and previous training, individuals also may be involved in other activities, such as supervision, records management, photography, mapping, recording features, and making profile drawings.

### FIELD LABORATORY

A field laboratory, supervised by KSHS staff, is open from 8 to 12 in the mornings and from 1 to 5 in the afternoons. Participants are encouraged to work in the lab as well as in the field. Achieving lab goals is every bit as important as achieving field goals. The lab is an excellent way for beginners to get hands-on experience with the variety of artifacts and other materials recovered during an archeological excavation. Parents or other sponsors of young children should keep in mind that the number of laboratory tasks that are suitable for young children is very limited; therefore, the number of children that can participate in the lab at any one time may be restricted.

### FORMAL CLASSES

Each year several formal classes are offered that may be used to earn college credit, to fulfill certification requirements, or simply to learn more about a particular topic. The classes are open to all KATP participants, whether or not they are signed up for the certification program. There is no extra charge for classes unless they are taken for college credit. College credit is offered through Emporia State University (ESU) and requires payment of regular ESU tuition. Participants should not enroll in a class unless they can attend all sessions (usually 16-20 hours); college and certification credit cannot be awarded if class sessions are missed.

### ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMS

Various informal educational presentations, tours, and social gatherings take place during the field school. A preliminary calendar is updated on the KSHS web page. Schedules with specific times and locations are posted in the check-in area at the project headquarters and elsewhere during the field school. Guests, particularly residents of the surrounding communities, are invited to visit the daytime activities and to attend evening programs. Local people are especially encouraged to bring their collections for identification on Collectors Night and to attend the Project Summary.