

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

A Learning Opportunity for All Ages



Scattered across our vast state are clues to a story that began thousands of years ago—a story that remains unwritten and lies beneath our very feet. It is the story of Texas that has continued through a multitude of generations. It is also the story of diverse cultures that lived on the land, adapting to different environments and changes in climate, as well as animals and plant life that occurred with the passage of time. There are no written records about the thousands of years of Texas prehistory that came before the first Europeans—Spanish explorers who arrived in the 16th century. Even in the centuries following European contact, written records often lack details of past life in Texas. Archeology enables

us to fill in important gaps and piece together the story of Texas through the examination of the clues that literally lie in the dirt.

CONNECTING WITH THE PAST

Archeology helps us more fully understand and appreciate Texas' rich heritage. Preservation of the information in archeological sites is critical to this process. It is also important for archeologists to share the excitement of their discoveries with the public. These are a few reasons why Texas Archeology Month (TAM) is held each October. TAM serves as the focal point for drawing attention to the wealth of information that has been learned through the study of archeological sites. To achieve this goal, numerous organizations, institutions, and individuals sponsor special TAM events in communities across the state. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) serves as the statewide TAM coordinator, assisting with publicity and the distribution of resources.

Throughout the month of October, numerous opportunities allow Texans of all ages to expand their knowledge about archeology. TAM events range from lectures on some of the latest archeological finds to archeology fairs that offer hands-on activities and traditional craft demonstrations. TAM offers communities a chance to explore the past at special events in every region of the state.

CONNECTING WITH THE FUTURE

Are you interested in helping save the past for the future? Do you think that your institution or organization might be interested in sponsoring an archeology fair in your community? Do you need some help getting started? We have some useful resources just for you! The *How to Plan and Manage an Archeology Fair* booklet contains practical advice and suggestions for TAM activities. Another helpful publication is the *Texas Archeology in the Classroom: A Unit for Teachers*, also available from the THC.

Have you made your TAM plans? Are you ready to add your event to the upcoming TAM calendar? Go to the THC website and download the TAM events form and follow the directions. Or, contact us and request that an event form be sent to you by fax, email, or regular mail.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about TAM and the upcoming October schedule, check the Texas Historical Commission's website at www.thc.state.tx.us.

If you have TAM questions or needs, call us at 512.463.6096 and ask to speak with the regional archeologist for your area.

To order any of the TAM materials, contact the THC by phone (512.463.6090) or email (archeology@thc.state.tx.us).

