

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY



CRAIG HARTLEY

*Avocational archeologists learn excavation methods at a training session.*

Does the field of archeology fascinate you? Do newspaper and magazine articles describing recent archeological discoveries capture your interest? Do you have a strong desire to learn more about Texas archeology, take a course on the subject, or perhaps even participate in an archeological project? Are you thinking about pursuing a career in archeology but would like to know more about what is involved? If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” then read on.

### GET INVOLVED IN TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH!

Opportunities to learn about and participate in Texas archeology abound. During the statewide celebration of **Texas Archeology Month (TAM)** in October, for example, communities and organizations host special public events. TAM events range from lectures on some of the latest archeological finds to archeology fairs that offer hands-on activities and traditional craft demonstrations for Texans of all ages. These events also provide attendees with the chance to meet professional and avocational archeologists. For more information about TAM, visit the Texas Historical Commission (THC) website, [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us), or call the agency’s Archeology Division at 512.463.6096.

### JOIN AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Archeological societies in Texas offer avenues for involvement year-round. The **Texas Archeological Society (TAS)** is the statewide organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Texas’ archeological past. This active group includes both professional and avocational archeologists. Membership is open to all who have an interest in Texas archeology, including those with no prior training or experience.

The TAS offers a variety of classroom and field training opportunities, including Texas Archeology Academy sessions at various locations across the state, an annual weeklong field school (including special youth and teacher programs), and periodic rock art recording projects. At the TAS annual meeting each fall, members present papers on archeological topics, create poster sessions, and participate in other activities. The TAS website ([www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org)) and a quarterly newsletter provide information about the organization and its activities. Members also receive an annual publication of research papers, the *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society*. For more information, contact the TAS by emailing [tasinquiries@txarch.org](mailto:tasinquiries@txarch.org) or calling 210.458.4393.

If you are looking for something closer to home, a **local archeological society** may fit the bill. These organizations host lectures on recent archeological projects and offer opportunities to participate in nearby archeological field or lab activities. While the local groups are not formally associated with the TAS, they have similar goals and ethics statements. A list of local archeological societies is posted on the TAS website.

The **Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)**, a nonprofit group founded in 1879, has more than 100 local society affiliates worldwide. The Texas AIA affiliates are based in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. This group offers free public lectures and international tours to cultural heritage sites, and it publishes the annual *Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin* and the bimonthly magazine *Archaeology. dig™* magazine ([www.digonsite.com](http://www.digonsite.com)) is published for young readers by Cobblestone Publishing and is produced in partnership with *Archaeology*. For more information, visit the AIA website at [www.archaeological.org](http://www.archaeological.org), call 617.353.9361, or email [aia@aia.bu.edu](mailto:aia@aia.bu.edu).

### TEXAS AND BEYOND: MORE FIELD AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service runs a nationwide volunteer archeology and historic preservation program called **Passport in Time (PIT)**. Volunteers assist Forest Service archeologists and historians on archeological excavation, survey, rock art restoration, site stabilization, and oral history projects. There is no registration charge for participation. Call the PIT Clearinghouse at 800.281.9176, or go to the PIT website ([www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com)) to obtain information about projects.

The following is a small sampling of other organizations that offer archeological programs:

**Earthwatch Institute**

Phone: 800.776.0188  
Email: info@earthwatch.org  
Website: www.earthwatch.org  
Archeological and natural science field projects worldwide; directed by professional researchers.

**Shumla School**

Phone: 432.292.4848  
Email: info@shumla.org  
Website: www.shumla.org  
Instruction and field activities conducted primarily on the Shumla campus in Comstock, Texas.

**The Archaeological Conservancy**

Phone: 505.266.1540  
Email: tacinfo@nm.net  
Website: www.americanarchaeology.com  
Nonprofit organization dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of significant archeological sites. Publishes *American Archaeology*, a quarterly magazine, and offers guided tours to archeological destinations in the United States and Latin America.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you need archeological assistance, contact:

**Texas Historical Commission  
Archeology Division**

P.O. Box 12276, Austin TX 78711-2276  
Phone: 512.463.6096  
Email: archeology@thc.state.tx.us or Marine.Archeology@thc.state.tx.us  
Website: www.thc.state.tx.us



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The Texas Archeological Society holds academies at different locations across the state. The participants shown above are sifting soil through a mesh screen to find tiny artifacts at San Felipe de Austin, a settlement founded in 1824 by Stephen F. Austin and abandoned during the war for Texas independence.