

F25.04: Historical Archaeology of Apex, Arizona, 1928-1936

Overview

In Summer 2024, in a collaboration between the NAU Department of Anthropology and the Kaibab National Forest (KNF), Dr. Emily Dale is running an archaeological field school at Apex, Arizona. Apex, a logging camp constructed by the Saginaw and Manistee Lumber Company near Tusayan. Apex was occupied between 1928 and 1936 and provided much-needed timber to the Grand Canyon Railway, Grand Canyon National Park, and mines in the neighboring Francis District.

The surveys and excavations of the site during Summer 2024 will result in a large amount of data that will need to be processed over the following year. This Interns-to-Scholars student will, in consultation with Dr. Dale, develop a research project aligned with their own interests that will assist in the processing of the field data.

Projects could include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Digitizing and analyzing field notes, photos, and maps
- 2) Analyzing GIS data
- 3) Analyzing geoarchaeological and archaeobotanical data
- 4) Researching historical artifacts
- 5) Conducting further historical research and oral histories
- 6) Analyzing the results of public archaeology surveys

Beyond participation in the Undergraduate Symposium, student work will also be included in field reports to the Kaibab National Forest and Arizona Humanities.

While the project is archaeological in nature, interns from Forestry, Geography, Planning, and Recreation, Geology, and History are also encouraged to apply.

What the student will DO and LEARN

Students will learn key skills in archaeological laboratory methods, data analysis, report writing, and collaborative and public archaeology. Based on their chosen project, students will learn skills and conduct research using software and methods most important to their own personal interests, such as ArcGIS, historical research, photography, Adobe Illustrator, database management (e.g., Excel, Access, and/or PastPerfect), and/or statistical analysis (e.g., SPSS). All of these hard skills fit easily into the "Skills" section of a résumé or CV.

Furthermore, all student work, including any written work, maps, photographs, tables, charts, and graphs, will be incorporated into the required site reports for the Kaibab National Forest and Arizona Humanities. The I2S student interns would be listed as co-authors for the volume, sole authors for specific sections, and/or credited in captions for images based on their contributions. The interns could include these on their résumé or CV and submit their work as writing samples for graduate school applications or similar.

Additional benefits

Students will be included as contributing authors to a variety of publications, including government and grant reports, conference papers and posters, and journal publications. They will also be encouraged to attend Archaeology, Anthropology, and History conferences to present on their research projects, such as the Society for Historical Archaeology, Society for American Archaeology, Pecos, and/or the Arizona History Convention.

Moreover, as the project is a collaboration between NAU and the Kaibab National Forest, students will be linked to a network of professional archaeologists that will help with future career goals.

Additional qualifications

FWS-eligible students preferred.

Time commitment

10 hrs/week for 30 weeks