

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Backcountry Archaeology Specialist
Department:	Backcountry Program
Salary Level:	II (Specialists/Foremen)
Default Housing:	<i>Backcountry (Final housing assignments may differ based on availability)</i>
Reports To:	Backcountry Camp Director
Desired Availability:	May 27 – August 12

Philmont Standards

- Must be at least 18 years of age by start of employment (21+ requirement, if applicable, will be noted below)
- Must become a registered member of Scouting America at the start of employment and subscribe to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Declaration of Religious Principles
- Must provide a complete and current Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A, B, & C) to the Infirmary upon arrival including review of risk advisory and immunization requirements
- Must maintain a clean, well-groomed appearance and be willing to purchase required uniform parts to meet Philmont's uniform policy
- Must participate in designated staff training
- Must adhere to the policies and programs set forth by Philmont Scout Ranch management

Position Overview

The Archaeologist is responsible for teaching and demonstrating the archaeological history of Philmont Scout Ranch through program features such as petroglyph tours, excavation dig sites, and museum presentations. The Archaeologist is eager to be part of a team facilitating mentally and physically engaging program and isn't afraid to get a dirty. This position reports directly to the Camp Director of Indian Writings camp.

Primary Duties & Responsibilities

- Responsible for the management and operation of the dig site at Indian Writings camp
- Present Archaeology programs on time with all materials on hand, ready to go
- Present a program that imparts useful knowledge that supports aims and objective of Scouting America and is fun, challenging, stimulating and safe
- The Archaeologist works with other members of the Indian Writings team to present programs (first established in 1956 by Gene Lutes) that teach Scouts the scientific methods of archaeology. These program features include the following:
 - Petroglyph Tour: Outline the cultural history of the North Ponil Canyon using Ancestral Puebloans and Jicarilla Apache petroglyphs
 - Foundation Tour: Outline the history, historical significance and usage, excavation history of the Ancestral Puebloan pit house, Ancestral Puebloan slab house, and the more modern Hispanic cabin foundation

- Excavation: (Led by the IW Archaeologist) teaching methods of Archeology by allowing Scouts to participate in an actual excavation at a designated dig site
- Museum: Display various artifacts found in the canyon and items on loan from the Philmont Museum
- Lab: (Led by the IW Archaeologist) assist in the setup and use of the lab and to demonstrate techniques in cleaning, cataloging, and storing artifacts found in the dig site.
- Teach the history and chronology of the North Ponil Canyon, which is as follows:
 - 400 AD to 1250 AD: inhabited by Ancestral Puebloans; Progression from hunting and gathering to growing some agriculture and living in permanent dwellings (pit and slab houses)
 - 1500: Jicarilla Apache
 - Mid to late 1800's: Hispanic Settlers
 - 1907-1923: Cimarron Northwestern Railroad
 - 1923-1938: Ranching (Chase, UU Bar, Philmont)
 - 1938: Waite Phillips donated land to Scouting America (then the Boy Scouts of America)
 - 1941: Samuel Bogan led the Philturn Archaeological Expedition which is described in the book Let the Coyotes Howl.
 - 1956: Gene Lutes began the archaeological program at Indian Writings
- Maintain a clean and efficient program area
- Check material frequently and keep the Camp Director informed of any program supplies needed
- Insure proper use, security, and care of program equipment
- Use proper archaeological procedures and record keeping practices, including the following: Excavation techniques, screening, establishing levels, collection of artifacts, cleaning labeling and cataloging of artifacts, and use of established datums
- Practice proper surveying and mapping procedures if identifying other potential archaeological sites
- Help the Camp Director compile information for the end of season report from observations and knowledge of the Archaeology program(s), and complete a separate report detailing the work and duties completed as the Archaeologist
- Assist with camp chores – cleaning showers and latrines, checking in crews, checking trails and trail camps, and other miscellaneous camp operations and tasks
- Assist with other staff responsibilities as directed by the Camp Director to ensure that the mission of the Philmont Scout Ranch is carried out
- Complete other duties as assigned by direct supervisor or ranch management as required

Desired Qualifications & Experience

- A degree in Archaeology is preferred, but applications from students in the latter years of their degree program will also be considered
- Experience working on an archaeological dig site is required
- Ability to work with multiple ranch departments and work in a busy and fast paced environment is expected of all applicants
- Ability to prioritize tasks and ask for help when needed
- Ability to function well in a high-pace and at times stressful environment

Physical Requirements & Work Environment

- Must meet the Scouting America height/weight requirements (The dig site is an eighth of a mile from camp, and will require hiking to and from the job site daily)
- The Archaeologist position lives and operates in the backcountry at Indian Writings camp
- (The dig site is an eighth of a mile from camp, and will require hiking to and from the job site daily)
- Hiking will also be required to assist the camp in managing the Area of Responsibility for campsite inspections, emergency response, crew support, etc.
- Must be able to lift and handle materials up to 70 lbs.
- Up to 90% of the workday could be spent standing, walking, bending, stooping, kneeling, or crouching
- Be capable and willing to work in all types of weather conditions at various locations
- Must be willing and capable of hiking into and out of camp for days off. May have to hike anywhere from 2 to 12 miles to get back to Base Camp or a Trailhead

Additional Information

Send inquiries to philstaff@scouting.org

It should be noted by applicants that Philmont Scout Ranch and the surrounding area are located in a rural ranching community within the high desert of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Climate, culture, and the availability of resources may vary significantly than other communities. Amenities applicants are used to may not be available on the ranch or the surrounding area.

Philmont and Scouting America provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.

Updated: 11/19/2024