Legacy: Hands on the Past
Our Mission: To enrich the community through public education in archaeology and cultural preservation to promote a collective responsibility for our diverse and shared past.

October is Texas Archaeology Month!

To celebrate, the Legacy Staff will be out at Mission San Jose’s Annual Archaeology Day on October 15th. Stop by and practice your excavation skills in our mock dig, learn how to use ancient technology like an atlatl and bow and arrow, or create your own rock art! CAR archaeologists will be on hand to answer all of your questions at our "Ask an Archaeologist" booth full of artifacts. This event is free and open to the public. Also, check us out at BiblioTech West Oct 13th and BiblioTech South Oct 23rd. We will be giving a presentation and playing an archaeology based game. It’s a great free opportunity perfect for the kids at a fantastic local resource! Bring the festivities into the classroom with Legacy's in-school presentations! During in-school presentations, staff teach students about the field of archaeology including methods, cultural topics, and career opportunities. Students also get a hands-on experience with a variety of artifacts and tools of the trade! Presentations can be modified for any grade level or group size. Legacy also has prepared presentations on Archaeology and Science, Prehistoric Texas, Historic Texas, and the French in Texas. The Legacy team is happy to tailor a presentation to your curriculum needs. These can focus on how archaeology incorporates your particular class subject (ex: Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Art, etc) or a culture/time period your students are studying! To schedule a presentation, email Legacy staff at: CARLegacy@utsa.edu

Celebrate Texas Archaeology Month in the Classroom!

Fall Adult Education

Also in October, Legacy has partnered with NISD’s Adult Community Education Program to offer an "Archaeology Fundamentals” class for adults. In this two part class you will learn and practice archaeological methods, get the chance to process real artifacts in the lab using archaeological techniques and much more! December brings our second class in the "Discover the Past" series and will focus on the cultures of American Mound Builders. To learn more about the class and how to register visit: nisd.net/ace. You will find “Archaeology Fundamentals” listed under Science & Discovery.

Teacher Testimonial

"[Legacy Staff] combined real world pictures and examples with hands on activities. Powerful combination for student learning!"

Upcoming Events

- October 13th: Bibliotech West Presentation (All Ages) 4:00pm-5:00pm
- October 23rd: Bibliotech South Presentation (All Ages) 2:00pm-3:00pm
- October 15th: San Antonio’s Annual Archaeology Day. Mission San Jose 10am-3pm
- October 18th & 20th: NISD Community Education Class- Archaeology Fundamentals (Ages 16-Adult) 6:30pm-8:30pm
- December 7th: NISD Community Education Class- Discover the Past: American Mound Builders (Ages 16-Adult) 6:30pm-8:30pm

** Watch our Facebook and Website for more events TBD **
Meet the Legacy Staff!!

Whitney Lytle is the Legacy Program Coordinator and a Ph.D. student at UTSA. She brings to the Legacy program extensive experience in archaeological research, as well as designing and promoting public outreach programs. For more information about opportunities offered by Legacy, email her at Whitney.Lytle@utsa.edu or contact her by phone at 210-458-4462.

Rachel Vara is the Legacy Assistant Coordinator. In addition to spending over 100 hours as a volunteer at Legacy, she has experienced archaeology in both the field and the lab as a UTSA field school student in Belize. Rachel graduated with her B.A. in Anthropology from UTSA in 2013. Contact her via email at Rachel.Vara@utsa.edu.

Spotlight: Faunal Analysis

When trying to understand the complex story of the human past, archaeologists aren’t only interested in artifacts (items made or modified by humans) and human remains (skeletons). They also investigate animal remains! This research is called “faunal analysis” and is one of many specialties in archaeology. Animal remains can reveal a lot about human life, like: hunting patterns, diet, the progression of domestication, environmental changes, and more! Just like artifacts, the context in which faunal remains are found is the most important information for archaeologists! To preserve the knowledge we can gain from faunal remains their placement and association with artifacts needs to be properly recorded. For example, mammoth remains discovered here in San Antonio show us that this area was much colder in the past and the people living here at that time would have made lifestyle choices to accommodate that environment. Artifacts found with mammoth remains could tell us what kind of tools humans were using to hunt and butcher these massive animals.

Thank you to the Archaeological Institute of America and the Southwest Texas Archaeological Society!

Last year, together with the Southwest Texas Archaeological Society (SWTAS) the Legacy Program, was awarded the Archaeological Institute of America’s (AIA) Society Outreach Grant to support the project “Title 1 Fund for In-School Presentations.” The grant allowed Legacy to introduce archaeology to over 1400 students and teachers in the San Antonio area. Legacy would like to thank the AIA and the SWTAS. This project would not have been possible without their generous support. Legacy would also like to thank all the students and teachers who participated in the project.

Learn more about the AIA at: Archaeological.org
For the AIA SW Texas Chapter visit: Aiaswtas.org

Archaeological Institute of America
Excavate • Educate • Advocate

Southwest Texas Archaeological Society (SWTAS)

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