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.

Spring Programs

Spring Break Archaeology Camp is back March 2017! It will be a week filled with activities, games, crafts, and plenty of hands-on learning. Camp is open to students ages 9-13 years. Registration forms are available on our website, car.utsa.edu, under Legacy Camps. Also in March, Legacy is excited to be a part of the community programs at Phil Hardberger Park. Come learn about archaeology and local archaeological sites here in San Antonio. This event is free and open to the public.

We have adult education opportunities as well! Through out the spring Legacy is offering two “Discover the Past” classes through the NISD Adult & Community Education Program. Learn about shipwrecks and sunken cities in our Underwater Archaeology class or recreate an ancient recipe in our Ancient Food class. To register for classes visit, nisd.net/ace, under the “Science and Discovery” category.

Help Support the Legacy Program

Currently, the Legacy program is seeking support to keep our costs low for local schools, teachers, and parents. Please consider making a difference in one of the following ways by contacting the Legacy Program Coordinator at Whitney.Lytle@utsa.edu.

Donations– Legacy relies on the generosity of our community members to help keep our program running strong! A donation of any amount allows us to continue to offer unique learning opportunities and encourage respect for our shared cultural history.

T-Shirt Order– For only $20 you can show off your support of the Legacy program by wearing a stylish Legacy T-shirt! Children, Unisex, and Women’s sizes available!

We are pleased to acknowledge funders at community events, in our publications, and online if permission is given to do so!
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: Geoarchaeology

Archaeologists can develop several specialties throughout their education and careers. Geoarchaeology is an expertise that can be gained through training in archaeology and geological sciences. Geoarchaeologists often examine surrounding environment of archaeological sites, the soils in which sites are buried, and lithic (or stone) artifacts found at sites. By analyzing the environment and soils, geoarchaeologists can understand how the landscapes have changed overtime. Understanding how a site came to be buried and studying the layers of stratigraphy (or layers of soil) also helps to assign relative dates to a site. Some geoarchaeologists specialize in the analysis of stone artifacts and sourcing where the stone originates. This is useful information to understand aspects of culture such as potential trade with outside groups to gain materials from distant locations. While on a tour of the Center for Archaeological Research, students will see an example of this concept as it applies to obsidian, a highly prized volcanic glass. Students will see and touch this material while learning about its unique properties and how geoarchaeologists identify the various sources and types of obsidian. To learn more about our tours or to schedule a tour for your group contact us at CARLegacy@utsa.edu.

Summer Programs

Legacy is pleased to announce that this year’s summer camp theme is “Archaeology of Ancient Adventurers!” Get ready to take a trip around the globe as we explore how ancient people traveled, traded, and migrated. Camp is filled with archaeology themed activities, games, and crafts. We offer 4 sessions of camp. (See box for dates) Sessions 1, 2, and 3 are open to ages 9-13 and new this summer, Session 4 is designed for 7-10 year olds! Camp runs Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm. As always, before and after care is available for free! Registration opens in early February. Visit car.utsa.edu for more information on Legacy Summer Camps. Also, Legacy will be offering more “Discover the Past” classes through NISD’s Adult & Community Education Program this summer! Our Teotihuacan class will introduce this monumental site and the architecture that still stands today. Camp parents, want to know more about what your child is learning at camp? Register for our Ancient Explorers class to explore camp topics at an Adult level. To register for classes visit, nisd.net/ace. Legacy’s classes are listed under “Science & Discovery.”