

**2017 Final Report to SEAC Public Outreach Grant Committee for “Project Archaeology:
Investigating Shelter Summer Institute for Educators”**

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The *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter Summer Institute for Educators* workshop took place at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Museum from July 25 – 27, 2017. *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter* is a nationally-acclaimed supplementary science and social studies curriculum unit for grades 3 through 5. The unit supports Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in literacy and mathematics, especially through modeling the investigation process. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of archaeology, students can seamlessly integrate science (STEM) with literacy, mathematics, social studies, and history. *Investigating Shelter* consists of nine comprehensive lessons guiding students through the archaeological study of a regional shelter (shotgun house) including a toolkit of archaeological and scientific concepts and a final performance of understanding.

Taught by archaeologist and Project Archaeology Master Teacher Ms. Candice L. Cravins, the two-and-a-half-day *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter Summer Institute for Educators* workshop provided in-depth instruction and classroom educational materials to 10 Alabama public school educators teaching in a wide variety of grade levels, elementary through high school. The workshop was advertised in April, May, and June 2017 to educators through the USA Archaeology Museum’s Facebook and webpages, educator e-news mailing list, the national and state-wide Project Archaeology web and social media pages, and the South Alabama Regional Inservice Center (SARIC), which serves approximately 8,000 educators. Educators were awarded certified continuing education credits through SARIC for attending the workshop.

Specific workshop goals were to:

- Demonstrate how the curriculum should be taught in the classroom.
- Provide information about the science of archaeology and related issues.
- Provide opportunities for educators to discuss ethical issues and educational concerns.
- Form networks between teachers and local archaeologists.
- Distribute information about local educational and archaeological resources.
- Provide an opportunity for educators to receive professional development credit for their training.

The teaching of the curriculum was enhanced through interactive walking tours of the museum exhibits, native plants garden, and archaeology lab at the Center for Archaeological Studies. Guest presentations by USA anthropology professor and Museum Director Dr. Phil Carr, USA college of education graduate student Ms. Anne Dorland, and Ms. Brandy Chunn, Museum Coordinator with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum in Atmore, Alabama, further enhanced the participants’ learning experience and assisted in meeting workshop goals.

Paper evaluation questionnaires were distributed to participants at the conclusion of each of the three days of the workshop, and were followed up with online surveys via email.

Figure 1. Summary Results from Paper Program Evaluations.

Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter
 Summer Institute For Educators
 July 25, 2017 – July 27, 2017
 SARIC # 10181

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

The method of instructions was appropriate for the objectives of the program.	9 out of 10 strongly agree 1 out of 10 agree
The presentation was clear, understandable, and well organized.	9 out of 10 strongly agree 1 out of 10 agree
I would recommend this program to fellow teachers/administrators.	8 out of 10 strongly agree 2 out of 10 agree
The implementation of program ideas would help improve student achievement.	9 out of 10 strongly agree 1 out of 10 agree
The substance of the program would be useful in the planning and implementation of my teaching assignment.	8 out of 10 strongly agree 2 out of 10 agree
I would attend a follow-up professional development on this topic.	9 out of 10 strongly agree 1 out of 10 agree

Various Comments

- Super workshop! Great resources! I will use this in my classroom!
- Great workshop!
- Great workshop! Loved all of the ideas!
- Have great speakers focus on shelter from their vantage points
- Thank you! Wonderful job putting on the workshop!
- Excellent! Very informative and enjoyable/interactive!
- Great workshop! I look forward to coming to more in the future!
- I have a greater understanding and appreciation of archaeology. These are great ideas to implement into the curriculum.

All 10 of the workshop participants completed the in-person questionnaires, while only three participants submitted the follow-up email questionnaires. The online email surveys consisted of 10 ranking and open response questions covering the effectiveness of each of the curriculum lessons and supplemental activities in preparing participants to teach archaeology in their classrooms. All of the workshop participants indicated they would share what they learned at the workshop with their colleagues, and ranked all lesson presentations as highly effective in preparing them to teach the curriculum in their classrooms. Overall, the teachers loved the workshop and found it to be very organized and well-presented (I am well-known for my organized workshops and this helps keep my teachers coming back again and again)! All of the teachers were able to walk away from the workshop with something they felt they could take back to their classrooms and easily incorporate into their everyday activities.

While I had capped enrollment for this workshop at 20 to 25 participants and expected to see it fill to capacity, I was happy with the turnout. A group size of 10 turned out to be absolutely perfect! All of the participants were able to receive personalized attention and fully engage with the activities in ways that would have been more difficult in a larger group. At my individual follow-up evaluation meetings with the Museum Director, teachers, and SARIC staff, we hypothesized the lower numbers may have been due to the fact that the workshop was held relatively late in the summer, when many may have been finishing up last-minute family activities and preparing for the start of the new school year. The fact that this was a multi-day workshop may have also played a role in the overall turnout. If I were to hold this workshop again I would definitely schedule it for earlier in the summer, perhaps in June. As discussed with the chair of the grant committee, excess funds and materials purchased for this workshop will be used for future follow-up programs held at the USA Archaeology Museum.

Overall, I felt the workshop was quite effective in promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation for the preservation and interpretation of the diverse cultural resources of the Gulf Coast and the Southeast. A group of enthusiastic, well-trained Alabama K-12 educators is now equipped with excellent resources to spread awareness of southeastern archaeology to their classrooms, colleagues, school administrators, and the general public.

