

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGY HANDS-ON PROGRAM

In 1958 and 1959, archaeological excavations were conducted on the grounds of Rock Ford Plantation in order to gain information about Rock Ford's outbuildings and to assist with reconstruction of the Piazza. Volunteers from the Junior League of Lancaster and the community assisted archaeologists from the National Park Service and uncovered the footings for the Piazza, a bake oven, the herringbone patterned brick outside of Rock Ford's kitchen, and the foundations of several other buildings.

Rock Ford is currently partnering with the Archaeology program at Millersville University to conserve, catalogue and study the artifacts found in the excavations of 1958 and 1959. In addition, Rock Ford has created a Hands-on Archaeology Activity for use in teaching middle school and high school students about the methods of excavation and artifact analysis, using some of the artifacts for which there is no location.



Our program conforms to the Pennsylvania Department of Education *Academic Standards for History* 8.2 for Grades 6 through 9. Through this hands-on archaeology activity students will:

- Gain understanding about the process of archaeological excavation and subsequent lab work
- Learn about artifact identification
- Make inferences about life at Rock Ford Plantation through the study of its material evidence

Definition of Historical Archaeology (borrowed from the Society of Historical Archaeology):

“Historical archaeology is the study of the material remains of past societies that also left behind some other form of historical evidence. These historical sites document early European settlement and its effects on Native American peoples, as well the subsequent spread of the frontier and later urbanization and industrialization. By examining the physical and documentary record of these sites, historical archaeologists attempt to discover the fabric of common everyday life in the past and seek to understand the broader historical development of their own and other societies.”

How the Hands-On Archaeology Activity Works:

1. Students will split up into groups of four, approximately 4-6 students per station.
2. Students will use their hands to excavate through their “archaeological unit.” They will find a variety of artifacts in the layer of their units. As they are found, students should attempt to identify as many as possible using an artifact identification guide.
3. After the identification, students will discuss among themselves to answer these questions:
 - What is the earliest year of manufacture for those artifacts that were able to be dated?
 - Where the artifacts found in the unit seem compatible with the location?
 - Which of the artifacts seemed out of place with the location they were found? How did they get there?
 - What human activities do these artifacts represent and what can each artifact tell us about their lives of the people associated with them?

Please let the Group Tour Coordinator know that you would like to choose the Hands-On Archaeology Activity when booking your tour.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Please contact our Group Tour Coordinator at (717) 392-7223 or rockfordtour@comcast.net. Group tours are *by reservation only* and must be booked *at least two weeks in advance*. Please be prepared to provide the following information when making a reservation:

- Desired date and time
- Grade level or age of students
- Number of students and adults
- Contact person’s name, address, phone number and email address
- Are you coordinating your visit with another museum or County Park?
- Will you picnic on our grounds?

Supervision

We *strongly recommend one adult for every 8 students* to assist students with hands-on quill pen stations.

Group Size

The maximum group size is 55 students. For groups of more than 55 students, we recommend coordinating your visit with another local museum or park so that half the group tours Rock Ford while the other half tours the other museum; however, we will attempt to make accommodations.

Cost

Students 6 to 18 years of age: \$4.00

Teacher or leader of home-school group is FREE.

One FREE adult per every 10 students.

Additional adults: \$4.00

Payment is requested on the day of the tour in the form of a check or money order payable to Rock Ford Foundation.



Time

Please allow approximately two hours for your tour. Tours are scheduled Tuesday through Friday between 9:15 AM and 3:00 PM, April through October.

Note: Hands-on tours are not available after noon on Fridays.

If you must cancel, please call Rock Ford as soon as possible. We will arrange a new date at that time, if possible.