



Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Council's

Texas Archeology

A Badge for Junior Girl Scouts

To earn this badge, complete 6 activities, including the 2 required*:

1. *DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. Work with a qualified archeologist to investigate an archeological site.
 - b. Work with a qualified archeologist to examine artifacts recovered from an archeological site.
 - c. Participate in a mock dig or artifact examination under the supervision of a qualified archeologist.
2. *Visit the Texas Historical Commission's website to learn about state and federal laws designed to protect archeological sites. Explain why it is important to protect archeological sites. What is a "pot hunter" or "looter" and how do they cause damage to the archeological record? What should people do if they find an artifact?
3. Read an educational book or watch an educational video on archeology. Find out what archeology is, why archeologists search for artifacts and what tools they use in their work. Describe the different steps in archaeological investigation: site location, survey, excavation, artifact identification, interpretation and reporting the findings.
4. How old is that? Research at least two different ways archeologists can determine the age of architecture, artifacts or sites. Explain the difference between relative and absolute dating.
5. Interview a qualified archeologist to find out about the educational requirements and other considerations of this job. What career opportunities are available? Invite him or her to speak to your troop. Contact the Texas Archeological Society or the Texas Historical Commission for assistance.
6. Visit a Texas historical or archeological site. Organizations that provide information on Texas historical and archaeological sites include the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Beyond History, or Texas Association of Museums. After visiting the site, prepare your own site report including the following information: location, date of site, archeologists working on the site, questions they were trying to answer, what they found, questions yet to be answered. Present your information to your troop.
7. What does preservation mean? What kinds of materials preserve for hundreds and thousands of years? What kinds of materials do not? How do the environment and climate affect preservation? How might preservation affect archeological research into the past?
8. Imagine an archaeologist "discovers" your bedroom 500 years from now. Make a site map of what the archaeologist might find. Create an artifact display, showing some of the artifacts found by the archeologist. Share this with your troop. Explain how the archeologist might interpret his/her findings.
9. DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. Prehistoric Archeology: Research the prehistoric groups who lived in your area. Describe what is known about their culture: what did they eat, how did they get food, what did they live in, what tools did they have and what were the tools made from, what did their clothing look like and what was it made of, did they play games or music, etc. What remains of this lifestyle would an archeologist find today?
 - b. Historic Archeology: Research historic Indian tribes and settlers from your area 100-150 years ago. Describe their life in early Texas: house, clothing, food, tools, what they did for a living, what they did for fun, etc. What remains of this lifestyle would an archeologist find today?

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES FOR INFORMATION

Texas Historical Commission (www.thc.state.tx.us) (phone: 512/463-6096)

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Texas Archeology Society (www.txarch.org) (txarch@onr.com)

Texas Parks and Wildlife (see www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

Texas Beyond History (www.texasbeyondhistory.net)

Texas Association of Museums (www.io.com/~tam/search.html)

Local museum or historical society

Texas Archeology Badges may be purchased at any of the GSNETX shops.