N.M. Archaeology Field Training Pilot Program – FY26



New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies
&
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM

Per the direction of the New Mexico Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) launched a statewide archaeological field training program in 2025 in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA).

This pilot program aims to equip New Mexicans with the professional skills necessary for archaeological fieldwork, enhancing workforce development in this sector through a structured, multi-phase training model.

	Item	General Fund	Other State Funds	Intrnl Svc Funds/Inter-Agency Trnsf	Federal Funds	Total/Target
6	(122) ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL					
7	RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	20,000.0				20,000.0
8	For forest management, restoration, thinning and vegetation management, including three hundred thousand					
9	dollars ($300,000) to contract with the New Mexico department of agriculture in coordination with the					
10	department of cultural affairs to develop an archaeology field school education and training program					
11	statewide, for expenditure in fiscal year 2026.					

Collaboration Between NMDA and NMDCA

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) administers the program in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA) Office of Archaeological Studies. This collaboration ensures specialized course development and delivery, combining administrative support with archaeological expertise. The partnership strengthens statewide training and leverages resources for effective program implementation.

NMDA
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Funding and Resources

- The New Mexico Legislature funded this initiative, allowing NMDA to administer it with support from the NMDCA.

- The program is offered at no cost to participants, with financial support available for travel, living expenses, and compensation for fieldwork, ensuring accessibility and encouraging broad community participation.

Purpose and Goals

This program is designed to provide professional archaeological training to New Mexico residents, preparing participants for careers as field technicians or supervisors. It focuses on practical skill development for archaeological permit surveys.

There are three components to the program:

- Online education
- In-person field training
- Real-world field experience



Program Overview

TRAINING TRACKS:
Two tracks for different levels of experience

Field Technician Track

- Entry-level training in basic archaeological skills
- No previous experience required
- Successful participants will gain the professional skills and experience to work as a technician on a field crew Supervisor Track

Supervisor Track

- Advanced training for those with intermediate knowledge and previous field experience
- Requires an educational background in a related field
- Successful participants will gain professional development and supervisory experience directly applicable to becoming a field crew supervisor



Course Design

Course offered on monthly basis

Online Course 2 Weeks, Part-Time	• 2-week course to prepare participants for field work • Approximately 5-10 hours/week • Self-paced with live check-ins
Field Training 3 Days, Full Time	• 3-day, In-person training • Locations across NM
Field Experience 3 Weeks, Full Time	• 3-week field crew on real world archeological survey projects with expert supervision • Complete tasks demonstrating required skills • Participants are placed by NMDA & NMDCA on projects



Fieldwork Logistics and Site Selection

- Field trainings and fieldwork occur across diverse New Mexico locations to expose participants to varied archaeological contexts.
- Sites are selected strategically to match participants' locations and schedules.
- The program includes compensation and financial support to cover travel and living costs, ensuring accessibility regardless of participant location.

Monitoring and Evaluation Methods

- Participants' progress is tracked through task books completed during field experiences, demonstrating required competencies.
- Continuous evaluation via live check-ins and real-time feedback to maintain high training standards.
- Participant eligibility criteria and physical requirements ensure readiness for demanding field conditions.



Conclusions

*This statewide archaeological training program is a robust collaboration that enhances New Mexico's workforce in heritage preservation. Through comprehensive curriculum design, strategic site selection, and rigorous evaluation, it equips residents with marketable skills.

*Financial support and practical experiences ensure broad participation, promoting a sustainable model for ongoing archaeological training and professional development.



Thank You!

Do you have any questions?

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