Archaeology Program

Statewide Training Initiative Overview



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

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

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



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

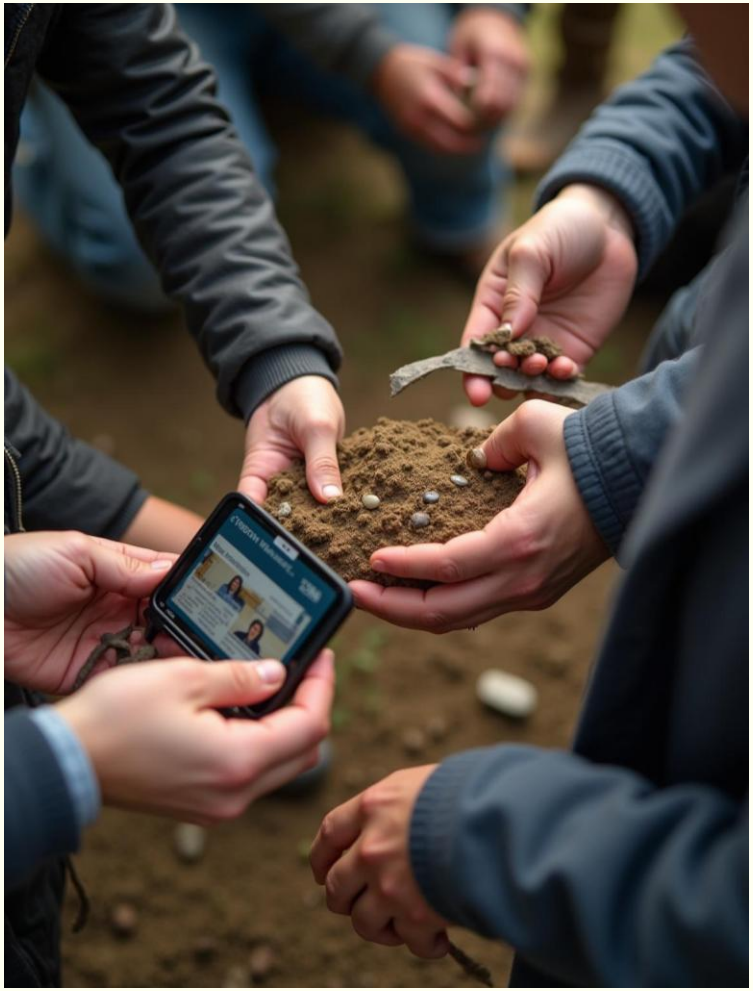
- Advanced training for those with intermediate knowledge and previous field experience
- Requires an educational background in a related field
- Successful participants will gain skills and supervisory experience directly applicable to becoming a field crew supervisor



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.

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



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.

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.

Implementation Strategy

Online Course 2 Weeks, Part-Time	• 2-week course to prepare participants for field work. • 10 hours per week • Self-paced
Field Training 3 Days, Full Time	• 3-day, In-person • Locations across NM
Field Experience 3 Weeks, Full Time	• 3-week field crew • Complete tasks demonstrating require skills. • NMDA placement of particpants



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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