



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Archaeology Volunteer

Background

The Presidio Trust archaeology program explores what's beneath it all...the extraordinary historical record just under our feet. The Presidio Trust manages over 30 archaeological areas within the Presidio National Historic Landmark District (NHL). These archaeological areas offer a long-term history from Native Ohlone settlement hundreds of years ago through the occupation of the United States Army.

The Presidio Archaeology Lab's primary research focus is the site of *El Presidio de San Francisco* the original Spanish Colonial fort occupied by the Spanish and Mexicans from 1776-1846. Archaeological investigations take place on Pershing Square, located on the Presidio's Main Post and are situated within what archaeologists believe was the western portion of the circa 1815 Spanish-colonial *El Presidio* quadrangle. Archaeological excavation in this area started in early May 2014 and has revealed archaeological deposits with artifacts and features dating to the Spanish, Mexican, and American occupations of the area. Investigations will be ongoing for the next several years. We use an open-site approach, inviting park visitors to witness archaeological research in action.

Position Overview & Responsibilities

Volunteers will participate in the El Presidio Archaeological Identification Season (ELPAIS) 2015, learning about the history and archaeology of the Presidio while helping the archaeology team in performing one or more of the following tasks:

- Wet screen excavated dirt, identify and bag potential artifacts
- Wash, sort, and count artifacts recovered from the ELPAIS excavation area. Materials may include metal, glass, animal bone, ceramics and more from the American Military, Spanish/Mexican, and/or Native Ohlone eras at the Presidio.
- Assist archaeologists with flotation, the method used for separating botanical material from soil for later analysis.
- Label artifacts with assigned catalog numbers, using archival labeling materials, and preparing them to be housed in the collections facility.

Commitment Expected and Training

Volunteers must commit to at least one 2-hour shift and must attend one mandatory training session prior to their first shift. The Trust will provide an overview of the Presidio's multi-layered history and archaeological resources. An archaeologist will train volunteers in proper handling and care of artifacts in a laboratory setting.

Requirements

- Excited by archaeology, history, and cultural heritage
- Must be 16 years or older unless accompanied by a parent or guardian (if accompanied, must be 10 years or older)
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Must wear clothing for working outside including long pants, layered clothing, and sturdy close-toed shoes (no shorts or sandals). Bring a hat and/or sunglasses and wear sunscreen. Be prepared to get dirty.

Benefits

- Hands-on experience in archaeology
- The chance to work with staff archaeologists and learn about the history and archaeology of the Presidio
- An opportunity to work alongside staff, interns, and volunteers that share your enthusiasm for learning about the archaeology, history, and cultural heritage of the Presidio

To Sign-Up

Send an email to volunteer@presidiotrust.gov