

Living Archaeology Weekend 2008 Volunteer Information

DATES AND TIMES

The event is scheduled for Friday, September 19 and Saturday, September 20.

The Friday program is reserved for fifth grade classes from school districts in local counties. The school groups will arrive at about 9:00 am, so we ask that volunteers for Friday morning arrive by 8:30 am. The students will tour the demonstrations until about 4:00 pm. Because the arrival of school children is constant throughout the day, we ask that volunteers plan to stay for the entire day, if possible. We expect about 1,000 students, teachers, and chaperons.

The Saturday program is open to the public, and we expect up to 1,000 visitors. Visitors will arrive about 10:00 am, so we ask that volunteers for Saturday morning arrive at 9:00 am. The event concludes at 5:00 pm. We ask that each volunteer agree to help for at least one-half a day, either the "morning shift" from 8-9:00 until lunch or the "afternoon shift" from lunch until 4-5:00. But, it is very helpful to have volunteers who can assist for the entire day!

Volunteers also are needed for set-up on Thursday and tear-down on Sunday.

FOOD AND LODGING

All volunteers should plan to supply their own meals during Living Archaeology Weekend. We suggest coolers to hold food for breakfast and lunch at the Gladie site. We will provide free bottled water to the volunteers. (Bottled water is available for sale to LAW visitors.)

Please note that there are no concessions at the Gladie site, and it is a long drive (at least 30 minutes) to a small number of restaurants in the Nada-Slade area.

Restaurants for dinner in the Slade-Natural Bridge State Park area include Miguel's (a well-known pizzeria on KY 11), Natural Bridge State Park Lodge (buffet and menu ordering), Shell gas station (sandwiches and other hot entrees in Slade at Exit 33), and Nada Sandwich Shop.

There are several lodging options. Free camping will be available for volunteers and demonstrators only (no general public camping) on-site at the Gladie Historic Site. There are portable toilets available at Gladie, as well as indoor bathroom facilities (no showers) at the Gladie Cultural and Environmental Learning Center during normal hours of operation. See the paragraph below about shower facilities. Demonstrators and volunteers may camp in the demo area, if they take their tents down in the morning. If you want to leave your tent up all day, please camp downstream from the demo area.

Camping for a fee is available at Koomer Ridge (see map on Venue Information web page). This is a first-come, first-serve camping facility with bathroom and shower facilities. The demonstrators and volunteers who are camping on-site at Gladie have been given permission to use the bathroom/shower facilities at Koomer Ridge.

Other camping options in the Gorge area are Indian Creek and Charlie Rock; both campgrounds charge camping fees. Other local lodging options are Lil Abner Motel (606-663-5386) and Natural Bridge State Park lodge, cottages, and campground (1-800-255-7275 then dial 6288 when prompted).

There are additional hotel and restaurant/grocery options in nearby Stanton and Winchester, both of which are west of the Gorge off the Mountain Parkway (see maps on Venue Information web page). The web sites listed on the Venue Information web page also have more information about dining and lodging, especially the Powell County Tourism web site.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

Volunteers should minimally bring food and any beverages other than water for breakfast and lunch during the LAW event.

Volunteers who are camping should bring their own tents and other camping equipment.

Volunteers who are camping on-site at Gladie are allowed to cook their own dinners. There are no formal cooking facilities (like grills) at Gladie, so campers should plan accordingly. There is a small pile of firewood on-site, and there is dry downed limbs in the vicinity that may be collected for firewood. However, everyone should be very careful in gathering firewood as this dry time of the year is prime for copperheads, and they like wood piles!

The Shell gas station in Slade and several other small businesses at Exit 33 have some camping supplies. Nearby Sky Bridge and Koomer Ridge have picnic facilities (see map on Venue Information web page).

Other suggested items are warm and cold weather clothes, wet weather clothes, sunglasses, sun block, and bug repellent. There will be a first-aid tent during the event.

The weather forecast looks good! The predicted lows are in the mid-50s and the predicted highs are in the low 80s with little chance of rain.

WHO AND WHAT YOU WILL SEE AT LAW

The slate of demonstrators for the 2008 event includes professional and avocational primitive technology experts, Native American craftspeople and performers, professional archaeologists, and cultural resource managers (see list on Program Description web page). The activities focus on Native American lifeways, archaeological methods and interpretations, and cultural resource protection and preservation. This year we will also feature a historic milling demonstration.

The objective of Living Archaeology Weekend is to provide school children and the general public with diverse, high-quality, multi-sensory educational opportunities in American Indian traditional technologies and other lifeways, archaeological interpretation, and archaeological site preservation. There are three LAW goals.

- Living Archaeology Weekend programs will promote in the public an appreciation for cultural diversity and cultural accomplishments, namely American Indian lifeways and contributions, by demonstrating the rich native heritage of Kentucky spanning 11,500 years and continuing to the present.
- Living Archaeology Weekend programs will inform the public about the past as it is known through archaeology and living cultural traditions, including but not limited to archaeological site types in Kentucky, the culture history of Kentucky, and reconstruction of American Indian lifeways (technology, subsistence, settlement, healing practices, artistic expression, and belief systems) in Kentucky.

- Living Archaeology Weekend programs will foster in the public respect for cultural resources and promote public stewardship of the archaeological record.

We have two educational goals. In other words, this is what we want the visitors to come away with and remember in ten years. Please help us promote these educational goals during the event.

- Native peoples who lived in the Red River Gorge had needs similar to ours: food, clothing, and shelter, as well as families, government, trade, art, and beliefs. They accomplished great things!
- We all have a responsibility to preserve the places in the Red River Gorge where these past people left behind the traces of their ways of life.

The Educational Materials web page has links to pdf documents that will provide volunteers with a detailed introduction to the event. This helpful information will bring you up-to-speed on the specific content of the event, so that you can help our visitors and learn something new yourself! Please read this information before the event, and feel free to bring copies with you.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERKS

We ask volunteers to help with set-up, delivery, and/or tear-down of the Living Archaeology Weekend event. Set-up is on Thursday, September 18. The event is delivered on Friday and Saturday, which is when the largest number of volunteers is needed. The tents are taken down and the venue cleaned up on Sunday, September 20.

On Friday and Saturday, here are the specific places we need volunteer assistance:

- work at the information booth (distribute programs and evaluations, sell water, sell books, answer questions, etc.)
- work at the plant domestication exhibit booth (talk about prehistoric gardening, show how to use hoe and digging stick, etc.)
- work at the native cooking exhibit booth (prepare foods for cooking, watch foods while cooking, talk about cooking methods, etc.)
- assist a particular demonstrator (manage the flow of visitors, help with hands-on activities, watch booths during demonstrator breaks, etc.)
- serve as a docent for school groups (walk the groups through the exhibits, answer questions)
- assist the program coordinators (run errands, handle miscellaneous tasks as they arise)

If you would like to work on a particular activity or with a specific demonstrator, please let us know. When you arrive on Friday or Saturday, please check in at the Information Booth.

Here are some guidelines for working with the visitors.

- interact respectfully with visitors and have fun
- provide clear answers to questions without using lots of jargon and technical terms

- if you don't know the answer to a question, don't make up information; simply refer the visitor to a program coordinator or demonstrator
- when working with the school children, please refer to them as "students" or "children" rather than "kids"
- don't use curse words including "pissed off" and "crap"

What we can offer in exchange for your hard work is a free event t-shirt, free bottled water, free camping, new knowledge, new friends, and our unending appreciation!!

The volunteer coordinator for the event is Darlene Applegate, who you can contact at (270) 745-5094 or darlene.applegate@wku.edu or dapplegate@vci.net.