



Oregon Archaeological Society Exploring Careers in Archaeology Fields Entry Level/Technical Roles

How do I get started in this field?

There are a number of entry level positions that you may want to consider as you prepare yourself for a career. Many positions may offer temporary employment while still in school during the summers. Here is a list of other kinds of jobs that may be a good grounding experience:

- **Lab Technician** - Archaeological laboratory technicians are responsible for the accurate and complete processing of archaeological collections recovered from fieldwork. Lab Technicians may be responsible for the processing of artifacts, including washing, analysis, and labeling, ensuring artifact provenience information is correct, complete, and maintained throughout all stages of laboratory processing, and assisting with curation preparation, as directed.
- **Archaeological Field Technician** – Archaeology technicians assist professional resource specialists with on-the-ground field studies to identify cultural, historical, and/or paleontological resources. Conducts inventories of cultural resources in areas of proposed projects with the Forest Service, BLM or other federal and/or state agencies. Collects and analyzes archaeological data in the field to document findings and prepare reports. Makes recommendations that may be used by the archaeologist. Compiles and reports information about the nature and extent of known cultural resources.
- **Historical Park Interpreter** - Responsible for the presentation of programs designed to explain and establish the value of the natural, cultural, and historic resources within the park sites. May require the formal educational equivalent of a bachelor's degree in natural science, communications, parks and recreation management, or a related field. Some positions may be available on a temporary basis during the summer, when attendance at the parks are at a peak.

What Important Skills Are Requested in These Positions?

- **Communication Skills** – may need to be comfortable in speaking to the public, answering questions and being a resource to engage and educate others.
- **Analytical Skills** – must be able to review and analyze data. Individuals must possess general knowledge of scientific methods and data, which are often used in research.
- **Critical Thinking Skills** – must be able to draw conclusions from observations, laboratory experiments, and other methods of research.
- **Investigative Skills** – must seek and explore all facts relevant to their research. Must be able to combine various sources of information to try to solve problems and to answer research questions.
- **Technical Skills** – may use a variety of tools and technologies in their work, including database, statistical, software and GIS tools.
- **Writing Skills** – may need good writing skills because they often write reports detailing their research findings and public results in scholarly journals and public interest publications.