

US Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Passport in Time” Transports Volunteers Back to Ancient Serrano Sites

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., April 24, 2008 – The San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) is co-hosting, along with the Angeles National Forest (ANF), a two-week volunteer-based archeological project the weeks of April 21–May 2, 2008.

The team of nine volunteers, selected through the Passport in Time (PIT) program and led by local Forest Service archaeologists Uyen Doan and Douglas Milburn, will be excavating prehistoric cooking features and collecting field samples from the Cajon Divide area of the SBNF, home to the ancestors of the Serrano Indians. The second week, the group will move to another site located on the ANF.

What may look, to the untrained eye, just like a jumble of rocks protruding from the ground is the start of an adventure for these volunteers as they are discovering ancient Serrano cooking pits. The samples collected will be sent for radiocarbon dating and macrobotanical analyses.

The project provides an opportunity for the public to work on archaeological sites on public land. After this project, the volunteers will better understand how Native California Indians cooked foods in ancient times, including how long ago they were used, what they used for fuel, and perhaps even what types of foods were cooked in these pits.

“Programs like these are a really great way for the public to join us in expanding our knowledge of human history,” says Doan.

The Passport in Time Program is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the US Forest Service. Volunteers work with professional FS archaeologists on projects including archaeological survey and excavation, rock art restoration, archival research, historic structure restoration, gathering oral histories, and analysis of artifacts.

For more information about the Forest Service’s Passport in Time program, visit the web site at www.passportintime.com

For more about San Bernardino National Forest, visit www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/

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