



Working for the Great Outdoors



ARCHEOLOGIST

History casts shadows far and wide across the landscape. Like a great history book, the National Forests hold the record of more than 10,000 years of human history. Early explorers, fur traders, miners and settlers often wrote their story. But most of the record of human life in North America was made by countless people who did not leave a written record—the earliest Americans. Without written records, we must look for other signs of the way people lived long ago: evidence often hidden or buried in the ground. Archeologists carefully examine undisturbed remains to learn more about prehistoric events. Would you enjoy working as an Archeologist with a natural resource agency? If so, a career as an Archeologist in the Forest Service may be of interest to you.

The Work Environment

From the beaches of the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, the Northern Plains to the Gulf of Mexico, historic and prehistoric sites include Civil War battlefields, abandoned homesteads, ghost towns, pictographs and tepee rings of prehistoric American Indian travelers. Forest Service Archeologists work to learn about, interpret and protect the historical and cultural treasures of our country.

Operating on the Job

Forest Service Archeologists routinely apply the skills and techniques of Anthropology, Archeology, and History to the preservation and protection of some of America's most exciting cultural resources. In cooperation with coworkers from the fields of Forestry, Range Management, Soil Sciences, Geology, and many other specialists, Archeologists are often involved in:

- field investigations of remote areas to locate and record previously unknown archeological and historical sites
- Specialized evaluation of discovered sites to determine their significance and to develop long term management recommendations
- Formal consultation and coordination with American Indian Tribal government officers and professional staffs
- Cooperative studies with other specialists in support of various

land management activities and projects

- Library and laboratory analysis and preparation of scientific reports and compliance documents

Career Paths and Requirements

Archeologists are hired at many different grade levels. Recent college graduates may be hired at the GS-5 or GS-7 grade level. They spend their first year or two in training and developmental positions, and then may be promoted to the GS-9 grade level. Others with advanced degrees and experience may be hired at higher grade levels, and there is substantial opportunity for advancement! To begin a career as an Archeologist in the Forest Service, you must meet one of the following requirements:

Have a degree that included 3 semester hours each in the following course areas:

History of archeology;

Archeology of a major geographical area such as North America or Africa

Regional archeology, archeological cultures, or sites in a specific part or portion of a major geographical area to acquire or develop a foundation for regional specialization for professional development

Theory and methods of archeology—methods include but are not limited to classification, sampling cultural evolution, diffusion, dating, and analytical techniques

Archeological field school, to provide a basic understanding of theoretical and practical approaches to research design implementation, field preservation techniques, and report preparation by participating in actual field work

AND

Six semester hours of related course work in: geography, geology, or cultural geography; history, historiography, or historical archeology; environmental studies; scientific writing (nonfiction English composition); and/or surveying

AND

Archeological field school.

OR

Related Curriculum—Degree in anthropology (with emphasis on ethnology, physical anthropology, or scientific linguistics), history, American studies, or a related discipline may be accepted as satisfying in full the education requirements, provided the curriculum supplied academic course work sufficiently similar to the requirements above

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(including archeological field schools).

OR

Combination of education and experience—College-level education or training that provided knowledge equivalent to that described, plus appropriate technical experience or additional education.

Experience—four years of archeological work experience that demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles and theories of professional archeology. The work experience must have included archeology field experience, which may include that gained in an archeological field school. Field experience should have included a combination of professional experience in archeological survey, excavation, laboratory analysis, and preparation of written materials. Applicants with such field experience should, after additional experience under the direction of a higher grade archeologist, be able to demonstrate the ability to be a crew chief, directing the work of others at a single location as a part of a larger archeological project.

These qualification requirements have been summarized for convenience. Full details are available at www.USAJobs.gov or the www.opm.gov subject index under "Qualifications."

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