

Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project

V o l u n t e e r O p p o r t u n i t i e s

Job	What the Job Involves	When
Historic research	Search archives, library resources for information on the site, central city and general period	Before fieldwork
Oral histories	Interview people with firsthand knowledge of the site, or of the neighborhood during earlier periods	Before fieldwork
Site preparation	Unload equipment, maybe put up fencing, help lay out a site grid and excavation units	Wednesday and first part of Thursday
Site mapping	Help survey site landmarks, boundaries, shovel tests, excavation units, and other features to create a site map	Most mapping Wednesday and Thursday, some mapping each day
Shovel test excavation	Dig small test holes to get a preview of site structure and stratigraphy	Wednesday and Thursday
Test unit excavation	Dig 1 x 1 m square excavation units by layer, using shovel and trowel	Mostly Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning
Screening	Put excavated soil through a screen, sort through remaining materials, recover and bag artifacts	All days
Plan and profile mapping	Help prepare drawing of test unit walls and floors, noting stratigraphy, location of objects left in place	Mostly Thursday afternoon through Sunday
Artifact processing in field	Clean artifacts, sort into basic categories, record preliminary counts and notes, rebag	Mostly Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning
Welcome table	Sign in volunteers and visitors, prepare name badges, answer basic questions about the site and project, pass on messages	All days
Gopher	Run miscellaneous errands to pick up supplies, deliver messages, etc.	All days
Tour guide	Walk visitors through site, answering basic questions about archaeology, the site and the project; find someone to answer the questions you can't	Mostly Thursday afternoon through Sunday
Photos and videos	Take photos or video coverage of general activities, or documenting the archaeology of the site	All days
Site closeup at end of day	Clean and store equipment, organize and store artifacts and site records, cover test units, clean up litter	Each day
Backfilling	Help shovel screened soil back into shovel tests and test units, pack soil, replace sod	Sunday only
Site windup at end of project	Help clean, organize, and return equipment and supplies; pack up and deliver artifacts and records; clean up site	Sunday only
Artifact processing in lab	Complete cleaning artifacts, sort into basic categories, record preliminary counts and notes, rebag	After completion of fieldwork
Artifact cataloging	Help with more detailed identification of artifacts, record this information in a catalog, archival packaging	After completion of fieldwork
Artifact and context research	Search library resources for specific information on the kinds of artifacts that were recovered, and for comparable sites	After completion of fieldwork
Site and artifact analysis	Review results of field and lab work, analyze and interpret results	After completion of fieldwork
Report preparation	Draft text for a site report, prepare maps and other graphics, edit text, copy and assemble pages	After completion of fieldwork