



News Release

State of New Mexico
Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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CONTACT:
Tom Drake, 505-827-4067

Archaeology Fair in Truth or Consequences

Santa Fe — Archaeologists with expertise on New Mexico’s earliest inhabitants on through those living in the twentieth century will meet with the public at the sixteenth New Mexico Archaeology Fair in Truth or Consequences, October 4, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs announced today.

The fair will feature activities for children and adults, including people who teach the ancient skill of propelling a spear with an atlatl, knapping tools and arrowheads, making rope from materials found in the wild and identifying and crafting different types of ceramic pots. Tours of Truth or Consequences’ bathhouse district, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, are available. At the kids table, children will learn to make yucca twine and shell beads and learn about making pottery.

“We will have archaeologists who can explain the significance of recent archaeological projects and how archaeologists study stone tools, ceramics, and historic artifacts to learn about the past. For instance, recent findings are redefining traditional conceptions of the Apache as solely nomadic,” said Jan Biella, State Archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

“Archaeological sites also are preserved in our intensively developed communities. Urban archaeology reveals towns and cities built on top towns and cities—and literally people’s garbage—and what that can teach us about our ancestors’ lives.”

The fair is an educational experience with an emphasis on local culture, and it is meant to inform through activities and entertainment. Past fairs have drawn visitors from Colorado, Arizona and Texas who join the hundreds of New Mexicans who come to the fair to learn more about their past.

This year's fair is themed "Travel Through Time." The Camino Real Scenic Byway runs through Truth or Consequences. Sections of historic El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, which linked Mexico City to Santa Fe beginning in 1598, can be found to the east and at Bosque del Apache north of town. Spaceport America is built alongside the historic trail in the renowned Jornada del Muerto section of the Camino. This year's Archaeology Fair poster features an image of the trail at the southern end of Jornada del Muerto.

The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ralph Edwards Park. It coincides with the local farmer's market and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life walk, all headquartered in the park. Exhibits and information on the tools archaeologists use, ancient fire making, information on acequias and irrigation ditches and a booth dedicated to historic and urban archaeology also will be featured.

Persons interested in exhibiting at the fair should contact Ms. Biella 505-827-4045. Exhibitor forms can be found on NMHPD's website, www.nmhistoricpreservation.org.

The fair is produced by NMHPD with assistance from the New Mexico Archaeological Council, Geronimo Springs Museum, MainStreet Truth or Consequences, Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway, New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, New Mexico State Parks, state Office of Archaeological Studies, Sierra County Historical Society and Diane Courney.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tom Drake, Public Relations
Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-827-4067
tom.drake@state.nm.us
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

or

Jan Biella, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-827-4045
jan.biella@state.nm.us