



New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

PRESS RELEASE

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State Archaeology Fair in Taos in Two Weeks

Santa Fe — Would-be archaeologists can be part of a mock excavation at the October 14 New Mexico Archaeology Fair held this year in Taos at the Millicent Rogers Museum.

Presented by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs, the fair is a chance for children and adults to experience activities associated with cultures that trace their origins back thousands of years. At the same time, they can learn techniques developed over the last 150 years that have helped us better understand the lives of some of New Mexico's earliest inhabitants.

"The mock dig is new to the fair this year," said State Archaeologist Michelle Ensey, who also is the deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at HPD. "We're conducting the excavations using some of the same tools archaeologists use to excavate prehistoric and historic sites."

The fair runs from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and admission is free. The museum is hosting the event and will be open during the fair, which also features the Taos Archaeological Society, State Office of Archaeological Studies, Archaeological Society of New Mexico and the New Mexico Archeological Council. Several HPD archaeologists and cultural resource professionals will be on hand.

Fairgoers will also be able to launch a spear with an atlatl, a prehistoric hunting device; make pinch pots and yucca bracelets; analyze artifacts; and view a variety of exhibits and participate in

demonstrations. Special atlatls will be provided to youngsters who want to hone their skills by aiming at a woolly mammoth target.

It is the 17th archaeology fair coordinated by HPD. The division traditionally works with a community to establish a local sponsor, and plans events that are suitable for children but of interest to adults. That fair previously has been held in Truth or Consequences, Clayton, Tucumcari, Silver City, Albuquerque, Artesia, Aztec, Grants, and other New Mexico cities and towns.

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