

Solving the Mystery of Yankeetown AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDSCHOOL IN



SW INDIANA

Summer 2011

May 20 – July 2

6 credits



Join a team of archaeologists this summer trying to solve an archaeological mystery and earn field school credit!

The Yankeetown people lived in SW Indiana 1000 years ago and are believed to be ancestral to the Mississippians who built Angel Mounds, but were they? Yankeetown material culture has also been recovered as far away as Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis Missouri. Did Yankeetown people move to Cahokia and then bring Mississippian ideas back to Indiana? Were the Yankeetown people part of creating the Mississippian civilization that swept across the Midwest and Southeast? These are some of the mysteries that we will begin to solve but we start with simpler questions: What was a Yankeetown house like? How were villages organized? No one knows---YET!

Excavations this summer are designed to discover how Yankeetown people organized their towns and built their houses. With this information we will begin to see how Yankeetown people related to other groups in the Midwest. **YOUR JOB** will be to help excavate houses and pits, and to learn about the role of material culture in piecing together particular histories so that we can begin to understand the place of Indiana people in the greater histories of the Midwest. Students will learn to manage their own excavation units and to assist in processing excavated materials. You will have training and practice in all basic field techniques plus students will also be introduced to state of the art techniques through integrated use of total station mapping, geophysical survey, GIS and GPS.

This field school is part of a large scale project designed to better understand cultural process and history in Pre-Columbian Indiana. We seek to understand how interactions between different groups of people led to culture change, innovation, religious movements and violent conflict. keep in mind that this is not a typical class but that participation in his field school is participation in an on going research project. After the field work ends there will be opportunities for student excavators to follow-up and continue to study and earn course credit for lab analysis, student projects and honors projects. Student participation in professional presentations and public education will be encouraged.

Location: Posey County Indiana Housing Provided:

Housing and materials Fee: \$600.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Susan Alt susalt@indiana.edu

See previous digs on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bloomington-IN/Solving-the-Mystery-of-Yankeetown-Field-school/90933020763?ref=ts>

Indiana University Bloomington
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF YANKEETOWN
Field School in Archaeology

Professor Susan M. Alt P 405 6 CREDITS

DIRECTIONS. This form can be completed and submitted in person to *Dr Susan Alt in SB 054 (lab)* by April 1, 2011 or Applicants may also send completed electronic versions to susalt@indiana.edu.

Name _____

Street Address _____

Spring Semester Phone and E-mail _____

Academic Status (circle): freshman sophomore junior senior grad. Other _____

Major/Overall Grade Point Average _____

If below 3.0, please explain why _____

Relevant Archaeology Courses Taken / Background _____

Why take field school? _____

Extent of your past outdoor work experience _____

List abilities/qualities you can offer the Project _____

VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MUST BE COVERED BY HEALTH INSURANCE PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR THE FIELD.

What health insurance will cover you in the summer? _____

Identify any special considerations regarding your health, allergic conditions, and ability to engage in strenuous outdoor activity _____

Your signature here acknowledges your understanding that you will be an active participant in a special field course connected to a research project with goals above and beyond an ordinary on-campus college course. Field work can be strenuous, days are often long (> 8 hours), and you may be required to work under uncomfortable weather conditions. Transportation to and from field sites is the responsibility of the student (although carpooling is normal), as are the costs of all meals.

Signature: _____

*Please note that Students will be responsible for their own food and for purchasing personal excavation supplies totaling between 50 and 75 dollars to be used in the field. **A single non-refundable housing and materials fee of \$600.00 will required by May 1, 2011** (this is the maximum possible cost, I am trying to negotiate cheaper housing in order to lower the fee). Additional information will be distributed following acceptance into the field school during pre-field meetings.

REQUIRED Supply List Prices listed were taken from Amazon.com but some items can be found cheaper locally

List 1 is for your personal field kit

List 2 is for personal items

There is no text book, but you will need to download a few articles from oncourse before you arrive at the field school site.

I have put up a wish list on amazon.com called FIELD SCHOOL WISH LIST under my email susalt@indiana.edu. This is to assist your investigation and purchase of these items. BUT I do NOT recommend that you purchase all of the items from amazon because some are cheaper at Target, Walmart, or your local hardware store. This is because some of the items cannot be had with free shipping so you can wind up paying 5.99 shipping for a .40 cent ruler!



You do not have to buy the exact brand or item displayed as long as the characteristics are the same (except for the Marshalltown), so any brand of nylon twine, any brand of metric tape ect. This information is just to explain what kinds of items to bring.




Another online resource for some items is: <http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/%29...that%27s>


Items in the wish list on occasion differ from those pictured here because I selected items in the wish list based on the cheapest option on amazon if you are having the item shipped. Given shipping cost versus free shipping that means a pack of 5 rolls of twine with free shipping is cheaper than 1 roll where you must pay shipping. I did it this way in case some of you would rather pay more and not bother shopping around, but the shipping on some items will significantly raise your costs.

I have also put up below the required list and on the wish list some items that I would recommend but will not require, like the tent set with tent stakes, brush and dust pan. You need only purchase what is in list 1, and the 3 items on list 2. If you find a cheaper item, please share your source!

LIST 1

<p>Marshalltown Pointed Trowel No larger than 5"x2 ½"</p> <p>Must be marshalltown for the one piece shank and blade. Do not buy a trowel that has welding on the blade because it will be useless.</p>		8.15
<p>Metric Folding ruler. This is tricky to find, since it must be metric so amazon may be your only option.</p>		8.11

<p>Metric Tape. Must be metric. It is a good idea to look at these in a store and judge whether you can easily read the number scale—some are beastly hard to read.</p>			6.99
<p>metric ruler. Clear plastic is best for mapping. And again, two are better than 1.</p>			.40
<p>5. line level—you must have 1, but two is better. And line level that can be attached to a rope and hang as in the photo.</p>			1.87
<p>6. Nylon twine. DO NOT purchase cotton twine because it will stretch and mess up your unit walls and measurements.</p>			3.29
<p>7. pencil lead pencil or wooden pencil be sure sharpener if you use wooden pencils extra erasers can be a good idea. All notes and maps are taken in pencil because it does not smear in the rain. Buy a pack, you will need several!</p>			1.34
<p>Sharpie Must be Black, Fine or medium point You will label artifact bags with this. You will need a few, judge how likely you are to loose these!</p>			1.49
<p>Plumb bob. This is critical for taking accurate measurements and setting up units.</p>			4.36

<p>Bastard file: this is to sharpen your tools, you want an 8 or 10 inch long file, shorter ones do not work as well. Two or 3 students can share 1 file</p>		<p>5.99</p>
<p>Note book (waterproof like this one is recommended but more expensive, your choice)</p>		<p>5.99</p>
<p>Tent stakes. Metal shaft with plastic head is recommended. Plastic shaft stakes will bend and brake. You also want a place on top of the stake to tie your twine to. These are available at Walmart and Target. Save money and split a pack with a friend but remember you will need 2!</p>		<p>3.16</p>
<p>Dust pan to remove soil from your units and features</p>		<p>2.01</p>
<p>Estimated cost:</p>		<p>53.15</p>





GOOD to have, but not required:

- plastic tool box or back pack to hold tools—but not one with metal or plastic windows as these super heat outdoors. I use plastic tool boxes for tools and a backpack for personal items. You will need something to hold your equipment, but most should have an old backpack or something around they can use for this and not have to buy a tool box.
- Brushes and dustpan
- 2 inch nails, especially the cap nails with plastic circles around the head
- large staples to hold down measuring tapes (usually in electrical sections for tacking down wires)
- You probably really do want to buy work/garden gloves for screening (artifacts can cut your hands), if they are too thin they will quickly tear. Any glove will tear so don't bother getting any too pricey—decent leather ones can be had for 6-7 dollars.
- A compass for drawing circles
- Colored pencils

Personal Items:

You **will not be allowed** on site unless you have a water jug and sunscreen, and a hat or bandana. This is for your own safety and comfort!

LIST 2: Note that you need not buy bandanas if you have a hat

<p>Water jug, at least 1 gallon capacity. You might also want a smaller water container as well.</p>		
<p>Sunscreen: You need a high SPF of a sport or sweat proof product. Some like to use sunscreen with insect repellent in it.</p>		
<p>Hat : You do need to keep the sun off your head, any that will shade your face is a good idea.</p>		
<p>Bandana: in case you can't stand a hat here's your other option. I recommend everyone have several plus a hat—you will need to mop the sweat with something!</p>		

Recommended for personal use:

- Insect repellent
- Moisturizer
- 1 liter water bottle
- technu or similar poison ivy wash (just in case)

poison ivy repellent
first aid kit
bandaids
sun glasses for mapping (cannot wear while digging)

Clothing to bring: It will be hot, humid and sunny. You want to stay cool, be covered and comfortable. This usually means light colored, loose clothing—There are no rules but that you not offend others. I do not require work boots, but do bring more than 1 pair of shoes in case of mud and rain, and have something you can walk in for site survey, and for field trips. Speaking of rain, a light rain jacket or plastic poncho is a very good idea. Personal toiletries are of course up to you!

Other important stuff you will need:

Housing is still being negotiated; but you will need to bring your:

Pillows Towels
Sheets/blanket

Possibly you will need an air mattress or cot and a few pots
You will likely want a folding chair

If you can bring a portable grill please do!

ALSO: We will not have phone or internet service in house although you can get internet at nearby libraries and cafes. So, I encourage you all to bring reading material, games, compact hobby items, dvds and cds for entertainment. Most cell phones work fine in the area.

We will all chip in for food and take turns cooking dinner (usually about \$2 per person for each dinner). Lunch, breakfast and whatever snacks make you happy are up to you, but you may also want a small cooler type lunch box to carry your lunch to the site.

FOOD and HOUSING Students will be responsible for their own food (although a group dinner will keep down costs). **A single non-refundable housing fee of \$600.00 will required by May 1, 2011** (this is the maximum possible cost, I am currently trying to locate cheaper housing). Weekends are yours and you are not required to remain at field school.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: see the project facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Bloomington-IN/Solving-the-Mystery-of-Yankeetown-Field-school/90933020763?ref=ts>