

ARCHAEOLOGIST I

This is professional, administrative work in monitoring and investigating archaeological sites throughout the State. Employees typically work with higher level archaeologists in planning and directing projects in the conservation and management of historic and prehistoric land or underwater archaeological resources or at state-owned historic sites.

Employees review project and technical evaluation reports from archaeological investigations by independent contractors or agencies and perform archaeological studies on state-owned property or for special projects. Archaeological site activities include participating in initial project investigations involving documentary and field research and overseeing technicians, work crews, student interns, or volunteers. Employees are responsible for preserving recovered artifacts through experimentation and established procedures. Employees report to a higher level archaeologist or the State Archaeologist and perform related duties as required.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work varies in nature from reviewing technical reports of archaeological projects to conducting field research on archaeological projects for the section or agency. The review of technical reports involves identification and preservation of known and potential resources. Field research involves evaluation of known or potential sites and overseeing physical fieldwork and recovery of artifacts and contextual data. Conservation of artifacts includes overseeing or performing preservation laboratory work.

Intricacy - The review of technical reports from contractors or agencies requires research of known archaeological sites, determination of potential impact of construction or development, and determination of appropriate methods to alleviate impact. Archaeological field projects involve identification of potential sites based on previous archaeological finds, geographic specifications, and prior research in the area. Fieldwork requires application of survey and excavation techniques to record and interpret contextual data and artifacts. Preservation activities involve on-site and laboratory duties to conserve artifacts including application and development of methods of conservation.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires detailed knowledge of identified and potential archaeological resources; evaluation of potential impact of construction and development; and review of permits for archaeological research. Work requires familiarity with archaeological procedures for field work and preservation activities.

Guidelines - Guidelines include laws and regulations established by the state and federal government and the Office of State Archaeology for the management of archaeological resources. Additional professional guides and principles are followed for the fields of archaeology and museum conservation.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees work fairly independently in determining daily activities and priorities. Initial explanations of project details and scheduling of field projects and associated research work are received from higher level archaeologists.

Nature of Review - Work is reviewed in progress through general discussions or resolutions of problems as they arise. Most work is performed independently once assignments and explanations of projects and schedules are made.

Scope of Decisions - Decisions regarding technical archaeological reports, potential impacts, permitting of archaeological surveys, and methods of preserving findings may affect preservation of archaeological resources and the progress of construction projects.

Consequence of Decisions - Decisions regarding archaeological resources and plans to alleviate impact from construction and development projects may cause loss of significant historic and archaeological data, project delays, unnecessary expenditures, or unnecessary exploration. Decisions in the methods of preservation may cause unnecessary expenditures or potential damage to artifacts.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Contact is with other archaeologists, contractors, developers, federal government representatives, students, volunteers and work crews, and other section or agency staff.

Nature and Purpose - Most outside contact is with representatives of other government agencies concerning application and clarification of laws, policies, and procedures. Other frequent contacts are in regard to specific archaeological projects or research of upcoming projects.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Work is conducted in a typical office setting with frequent travel to field sites to review exploration work being performed and occasional physical involvement with field exploration.

Hazards - Travel may cause exposure to inclement weather and driving hazards. Land and underwater archaeological surveys may involve risks of injury or exposure to health hazards. '

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge, Skills, And Abilities - Considerable knowledge of archaeological principles, research techniques, and professional reference facilities necessary to identify artifacts and interpret or evaluate archaeological sites. Knowledge of North Carolina and American prehistory and history. Knowledge of artifact preservation techniques. Ability to oversee and supervise subordinate personnel in the survey and research of an archaeological field site. Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Master's degree in archaeology, anthropology, or a closely related field; or graduation from a four-year college or university with a major in archaeology, anthropology, or a related field and two years of progressive experience in archaeology, or archaeological preservation; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.