

During my Intern to Scholar internship, I worked with Emily Dale and analyzed the collected information and data from the field school held at the historical logging town in Apex, Arizona. After organizing and cross analyzing the information, I concluded that the majority of those who visited the site were highly interested in archaeology and used this experience to act on that interest. This led to many unique descriptions from visitors on what they found most interesting and how the artifacts found can demonstrate what life was like on the camp in the 1900s.

Introduction

Methods

Conclusion



Visitors fill out their surveys at the Apex Welcome Center

This Summer, Dr. Emily Dale partnered with the Kaibab National forest to hold an archaeological field school at Apex, Arizona which is a 1900s logging town along the Grand Canyon Railway near Tusayan. Eight students conducted surveys and excavations of the schoolhouse, domestic features and sites of labor. They revealed evidence of life in Northern Arizona during the Great Depression while simultaneously educating the public on the site and areas history.

Pictured Below are some of the many artifacts found this Summer including a radio part, toy gun, porcelain pot fragment and a wind-up mechanical object.



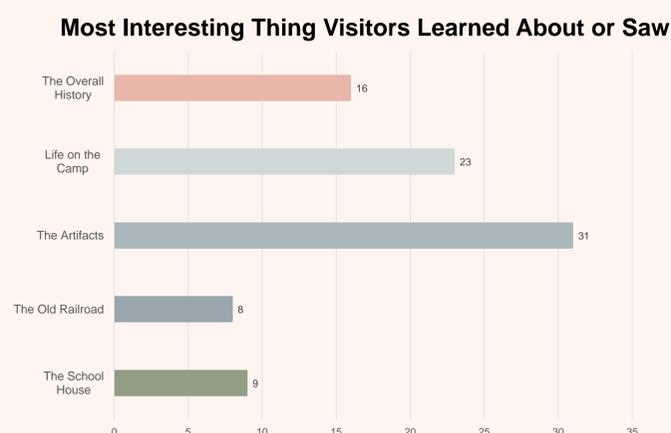
They then opened the archaeology field school to nearly 100 members of the public and collected surveys from eighty-eight visitors, having them list their interest in archaeology, why they visited, and the most interesting thing they learned or saw at the site.

I transcribed the information from visitors and drew some conclusions and connections from their responses



(Figure A)

For Figure A, I recorded what the visitors of the Apex site put down for their interest level in archaeology on a scale from 1-5 with 5 being the highest. As we can see the majority of the participants (53) chose a rating of 5 whereas the lowest number of visitors (2) chose a 2 rating. We can conclude that all of the visitors were interested in Archaeology, but the majority of the visitors said they were highly interested in Archaeology. We could infer that the visitors decided to visit the Apex site due to their high interest in archaeology.



(Figure C)

All the visitors had unique responses in the survey when asked what the most interesting thing they learned, experienced, or gained from participating in the program. For Figure C, I decided to organize the visitors' responses into six generalized categories to better analyze what the visitors found the most interesting. As we can see, visitors found the artifacts to be the most interesting. A lot of the responses regarding the artifacts expressed how they loved digging through the "trash" and the hands-on experience that they got to endure. This leads me to the conclusion that allowing visitors to be hands on with artifacts at the Apex site, was super successful and will be a necessity for the future of this archaeological field school.

Why Did They Visit?



(Figure B)

As shown by Figure B, we can see that most people (31) said they visited the Apex camp because of an outing for work or school. The second highest reason for visiting (28) was their interest in the area's history. It was interesting to see how in Figure A, most of the visitors set their interest in Archaeology at a 5 because in this chart (Figure B) only a small number of people said that their interest in archaeology was their reason for visiting.

Discussion

I wasn't surprised that most of the visitors found the artifacts to be the most interesting. Someone's belongings and "trash" can tell a lot about that person and the overall persona of what life was like during the Great Depression at this logging site. For example, they found an old piece of a 1926 radio, shoe soles, Crush orange soda bottles, soles of shoes, children's toys, ornate ceramic pieces and much more. Most of the visitors had a high interest rate in archaeology (Figure B) which makes sense as to why they found the artifacts the most interesting as they are a direct correlation of human history and gave the visitors the ability to pretend to be an archaeologist and analyze the artifacts. We can also see that visitors found learning about life on the camp to be the second most interesting thing when asked what they found the most interesting (Figure A). This ties into the artifacts as they both give insight on what life was like living on camp and during the Great Depression in Northern Arizona. Most of the visitors had an interest in archeology (Figure B) but did not necessarily come because of their interest in archeology (Figure C).

I conclude that the majority of those who visited the site ,despite where they lived or their reasoning for visiting, were highly interested in archaeology. The visitors were able to use the experience of visiting and exploring the site to act on that interest. This led to many unique descriptions from visitors on what they found most interesting.



A site visitor tells stories of his family who lived at Apex during one of the tours.

Seeing how the visitors found life on camp and the artifacts to be the most interesting thing they saw or learned about shows that despite their knowledge in archaeology this experience allowed them to successfully step into the shoes of an archaeologist. They were able to analyze artifacts and learn information from the guides about what life might have looked like during the Great Depression in Northern Arizona.



Ashley Mlagzar explains excavation methods to an Arizona Preservation Foundation tour group while Emily Dale and Logan Hick lay out an excavation unit in the background.

Acknowledgments

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