



Careers in Archaeology

*By Dina Rivera, RPA Communications Director
And Matt Emerson, Chair, Professional Development Committee*

Archaeology is a fun career to explore! We have prepared this handout to help guide you on your intrepid journey:

What are the most asked questions in exploring a career in Archaeology?

- How do I find out about field opportunities?
- What kind of training do I need to work at an archaeological site?
- How do I afford to take off summers to work in Archaeology?

What resources are available?

- The Society for Historical Archaeology, the Society for American Archaeology and the Register of Professional Archaeologists are great places to start learning about what archaeologists do (sha.org, saa.org) Scan the QR code below to explore the Resources available at the Register Main Site
- Websites from Government entities like the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management
- There are state and regional organizations actively preserving and exploring the local archaeology. Look in your preferred areas for great opportunities!
- The Archaeological Institute of America has an interactive guide to field work opportunities at <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/professionals/fieldwork/afob/>

- Student Insights: Search YouTube for student recommendations on archaeology fieldwork, equipment, jobs and careers.

What do you wish someone told you about the field when you were in school?

- It can be physically hard but rewarding work.
- There is a place for everyone on an archaeology dig, lab, or firm.
- Pursue another skill to fund yourself when there are seasonal gaps in archaeology work.

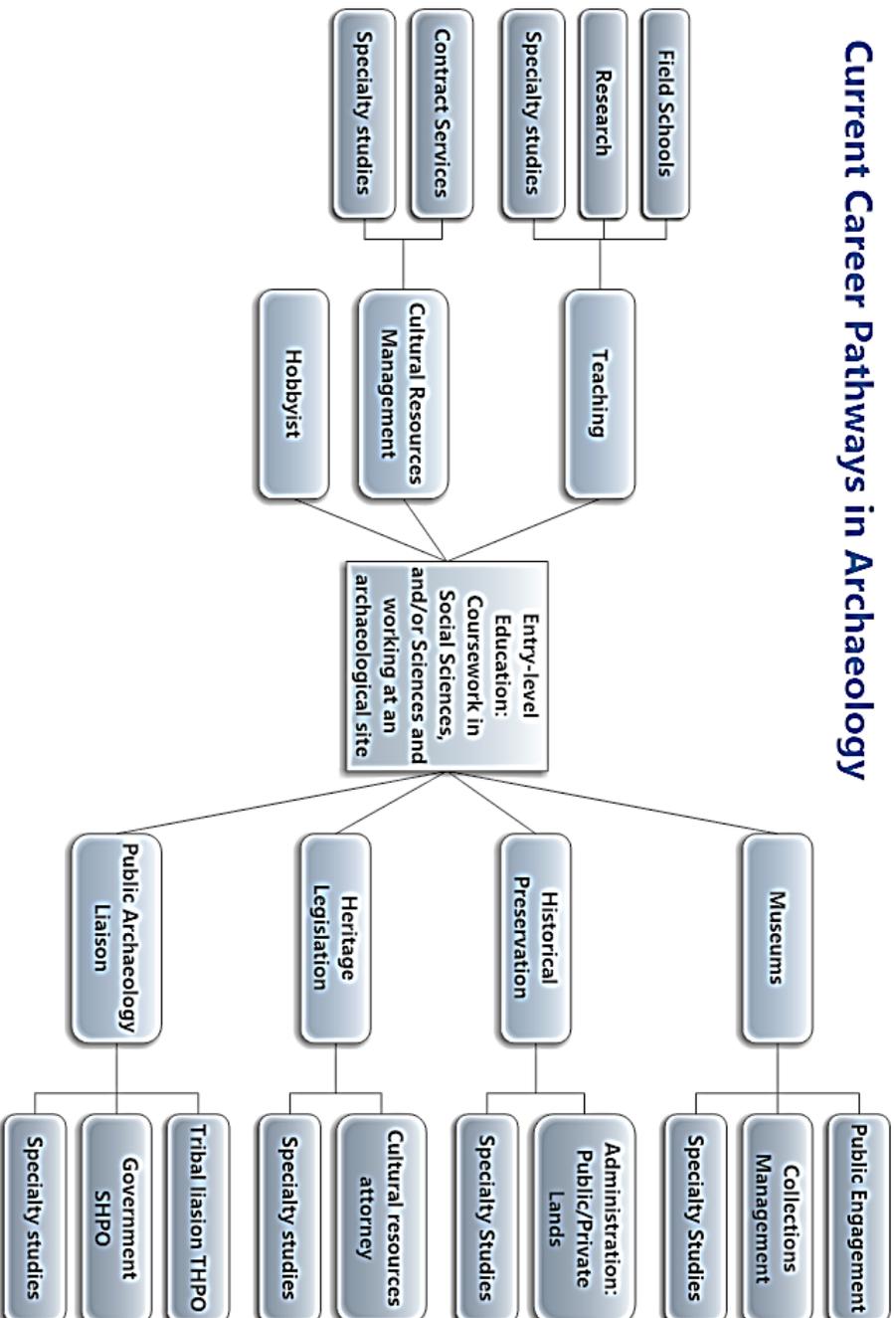
If you would like more information, contact our Communications Director, Dina Rivera at commsdirector@rpanet.org, or our Professional Development Chairperson, Matt Emerson at emersonmze@gmail.com.

Learn more about Archaeology!

See this handout for an illustration of Archaeology career pathways, specialized studies, and the types of Archaeology practiced today!



Current Career Pathways in Archaeology



Specialty Studies include more experience and advanced degrees for methods, techniques, studies and expertise in the following areas: forensics, environment, climate, & geological sciences, dating methods, remote sensing, architecture, geography and landscapes, agriculture and food security, geophysical prospecting, GPS-GIS and mapping software, taphonomy, stratigraphy, soils, flotation, zooarchaeology, osteology, archaeobotany, DNA, artifact identification and conservation, numismatics, photography, 3D scanning and image processing, digital data management, artifact illustration, statistics, experimental archaeology, demographic, historiographic and archival research, legislation, excavation, public speaking and outreach, warfare and military, cultural-tribal knowledge, repatriation, scholarly writing skills, library, technical writing, personnel administration, office and project management, law, feminism, racism, ethnicity, and gender

Types of Archaeology include: Historical Archaeology, Prehistoric Archaeology, Medieval and Modern Archaeology, Classic Archaeology, Landscape Archaeology, Cognitive Archaeology, Environmental Archaeology, Industrial Archaeology, Urban Archaeology, Household Archaeology, Marine Archaeology, Aviation Archaeology, Battlefield Archaeology, Salvage Archaeology, Commercial Archaeology, Garbology, Experimental Archaeology, Forensic Archaeology, Bioarchaeology, Community Archaeology, Digital Archaeology, Indigenous Archaeology, Pre-Columbian Archaeology, Geoarchaeology



The Register
of Professional
Archaeologists

