

Fresno State Archeological Field School at the Grandad site: Teaching archeological techniques and Native American Cultural Values

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Over the last 17 years the Fresno State Archeology field school has been conducted in the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills. The site has proved to be a rich archeological resource for students to be engaged in actively learning the skills of archeology and directly involved in this amazing research project that provides a window on 10,000 years of Sierran Prehistory



The pedagogical philosophy has always centered on students teaching students with many of them returning to act as crew chiefs and even assistant field directors.

I am proudest of the strong presence and involvement of Native Americans from varying local tribes. In fact, the field school would not exist without generous support from these tribes, but beyond the financial support their active participation truly is what makes this field school a memorable experience for my students.

The field school has not only trained students in archeology, but through the direct involvement of the Local Native American tribes our students have learned Native American cultural values and perspectives. This has led to strengthening of ties between the University and these communities as well as students gaining employment working in cultural resources departments for the tribes after graduation.

