

# Archaeology Plus - Dr Jan Sigvartsen

## INSTRUCTOR

Jan Sigvartsen PhD  
Leanne Sigvartsen MCouns

## PHONE

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Tarragindi.org

## AGE

8-18

## FORMAT

IN-PERSON

## HOURS

17 hours (makeup  
classes available)

## CLASS OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In this program, you will be an important member of the Tarragindi Archaeological Team. You will learn valuable specialist skills in restoration and preservation by participating in a much-needed historic community project to restore the Long Lake Cemetery (3 miles from Downtown Berrien Springs). This cemetery is where many of Berrien County's earliest settlers are buried.

As you restore the cemetery, you will also learn about the early history of Berrien County and its fascinating early settlers and the lives they lived – possibly on the same land you are currently living on. Students will learn how to research their own home's history, how to research their own ancestors, and early settler life in Berrien Springs in the early 1800s. This project will also teach students how to obtain VA headstones or plaques for veterans, particularly Civil War veterans, who are buried in the Long Lake Cemetery. External funding is presently being sought to ensure every child buried in this cemetery has the dignity of a headstone, and students will be involved in researching the lives of these children and writing the new headstone script.

One of our research questions will be, is this historic cemetery the oldest cemetery in Berrien County? Are the people buried there in the early years all related to each other, and was this originally a family cemetery? Or, was this a convenient community cemetery close to the prehistoric Native American Trail (which is now Old US 31) and Long Lake, where the first permanent European settlers of Berrien County originally settled?

A parent, grandparent, or guardian is welcome to accompany you. Friends or siblings must be registered for this class with the parent partnership to participate. This program is for two and a half hours per week for seven weeks.

## ARTIFACTS AND SAFETY

Archaeology is a lot of fun and very rewarding, especially when you make a significant contribution to your community by restoring and preserving an important historic site. However, it is not without risks, even though they occur very rarely. We will take all precautions to ensure your safety, but consistent with archaeological projects, all participants will be required to sign a waiver.

Please remember that the Long Lake Cemetery is owned by Berrien Township who have given Dr Jan Sigvartsen special permission to oversee this restoration work. Dr Jan exceeds the [Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeologists as stipulated in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61](#). Please do not try to undertake restoration work outside of class hours or when your supervisors are not there. Please respect the neighbors' right to privacy and peace by not entering their properties and only parking in the designated areas.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants suitable for being outdoors in September/October
- Sturdy boots with a thick sole

## WE SUPPLY

- All safety equipment and monument supports
- Artifact cleaning supplies
- Portable restroom facilities

## CLASS TIMES

- Friday, 1pm – 3.30pm (snacks provided)
- Sunday, 1pm – 3.30pm (snacks provided)

Except

- Week 1, Orientation - August 26 **or** 28 from 6pm – 8pm
- Week 3, Rose Hill Cemetery Tour – September 14 only 1pm - 3.30pm

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, August 26 or 28	ORIENTATION – OLD COURTHOUSE
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs August 26, 2025 - 6-8 pm <b>or</b> August 28, 2025 – 6-8 pm	All students undertaking Dr Jan Sigvartsen’s five Parent Partnership classes this semester are required to attend orientation. There are two scheduled orientation times – <b>you only have to attend <u>one</u> of these scheduled orientations (not both).</b>
WEEK 2, September 5 or 7	HISTORY CENTER TOUR – at your selected class time
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs	This week we will take a tour through the Berrien Springs History Center and learn about the fascinating and multicultural history of Berrien Springs.
WEEK 3, September 14 only	ROSE HILL CEMETERY TOUR – September 14 only at 1pm - 3.30pm
Rose Hill Cemetery 9905 Rose Hill Road, Berrien	This is a special tour of the Rose Hill Cemetery, hosted by the Berrien County History Museum’s Executive Director, Rhiannon Cizon.
Week 4, September 19 or 21	TARRAGINDI DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Tutorial on selecting your restoration monuments and researching Berrien County early settlers. Work on the restoration project.
WEEK 5, September 26 or 28	TARRAGINDI DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Tutorial on how to research your own home’s previous owners. Work on the restoration project.
Week 6, October 3 or 5	TARRAGINDI DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Tutorial on how to research your family tree. Work on the restoration project.
WEEK 7 October 10 or 12	TARRAGINDI DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Tutorial on how to apply for VA monuments. Work on the restoration project.

## YOUR PROJECT

You can research the history of the Long Lake community, the first permanent community in Berrien County (or was it?). You may also like to investigate the lives of one of Berrien County’s fascinating early settlers or their families. You may like to answer the question: why did 37-year-old Serepta Simpson and her 15-year-old daughter, Louisa, pass away in the same month in 1863? Who was the first person to live on the land your home is on?

## ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Jan Sigvartsen PhD has taught Archaeology and Ancient Religion classes at Andrews University, Michigan, and the Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, Germany, where he was also the PhD Programs Coordinator and Associate Director of the Institute of Biblical Studies and Archaeology. He has participated in archaeological digs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States, has traveled extensively to historic sites globally, and has lived in Israel, Norway, England, Germany, Australia, and the United States. His area of research specialty is ancient afterlife and resurrection beliefs. Dr Sigvartsen exceeds the [Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeologists as stipulated in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61.](#)

Leanne Sigvartsen originally trained as a psychologist in Australia and spent many years as a counselor and academic advisor for teens and young adults. She currently works with the Chicago-based *Center for Collaborative Study for Trauma, Health Equity, and Neurobiology* as their Research Project Director. She is a triple citizen of the United States, Australia, and Malta, and has lived in the United States, Australia, and Germany. She is committed to creating memorable and unique childhood experiences (like Archaeology digs) that allow young people to connect to their local community's history. This is to allow them to become proud of being from Berrien County and its fascinating early settler and indigenous history – a history they are now a part of. It is believed this will promote good mental health and healthy self-esteem in young people - especially those who have experienced bullying, trauma, or adverse childhood experiences.

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