

ARCHAEOLOGY DIG
WOLF'S PRAIRIE DIG

DR JAN SIGVARTSEN PHD

tarragindi.org

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig

CLASS TITLE: Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig (ages 8-20)

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16.5

ADDITIONAL TIME POSSIBLE: Yes

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 32 hours

LOCATION: Courthouse Square, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR: Dr Jan A. Sigvartsen PhD

CONTACT INFORMATION: 269-363-3968 – info@tarragindi.org – tarragindi.org

LOCATION REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS, IF REQUIRED:

6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103 – Your instructor will contact you regarding registration and orientation.

- Orientation for all of Dr Sigvartsen's 12 History, Archaeology, and Genealogy classes will be held on: September 1 **OR** September 3, 6pm – 8pm, 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103
- Your Local History Tour that gives context to your program will be held on: September 12 **OR** September 13, 3pm – 5pm.
- This class is then held every Wednesday, 4pm-6.30pm and Thursday, 10am-12.30pm, from September 9 – October 8.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS: BA, MA, PhD

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To allow students to experience a real archaeology dig searching for the Wolf's Prairie native American Village in what is now Berrien Springs – a place previous digs have identified as being inhabited for the past 12,000 years. Dig is overseen by a PhD qualified archaeologist.
2. To teach basic excavating techniques, identification techniques, researching artifacts, cleaning artifacts, and presentation of findings.
3. To teach local indigenous and settler history in a real way with the view of students developing belonging and a sense of place in the local community.

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: Weekly approximate breakdown of activities:

Week 1 – 2 hours (Tuesday, September 1 OR Thursday, September 3)

Orientation: at the Tarragindi Archaeology Dig site: 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

You will be required to sign a waiver and choose if you want to participate in photographs or not during this program. We will go over expectations and give you some background of the site and region and show you some of our previous finds.

Week 2 – 2.5 hours (September 9 – September 10)

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

We start the dig! We will supply all your tools and gloves. Parents and guardians can dig too. We will focus on basic excavation techniques and sifting techniques. We will also focus on the identification of stone arrow making chips/shards.

Week 2 – 2 hours (Saturday, September 12, 3-5pm, OR Sunday, September 13, 3-5pm)

History Tour: This semester we are going to Fernwood Botanical Gardens for our local history tour – our treat for you and one parent/guardian, if they want to join us. Siblings not registered in the program or additional parents/grandparents/guardians are welcome, but are responsible for paying for their own discounted entry fee.

They are located at: 13988 Range Line Rd, Niles, MI 49120. Park in the carpark, wait on the patio outside for Dr Jan.

Did you know that a Native American trail went right through this area and its landscape in the St Joseph river valley makes it almost perfect for settlement both now and 10,000 years ago. We will walk around this historic garden and hear stories of how this beautiful space came about in our community over the past 200 years and was developed by different people over time.

Week 3 – 2.5 hours (September 16 – September 17)

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

We keep digging! There is no telling what you may find. We will talk about investigating hardened clay layers in the soil and how to identify if they are from human use, glaciers, or natural exposure hundreds of years ago.

Week 4 – 2.5 hours (September 23 – October 24)

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

We continue digging and sifting. Students are encouraged to investigate their finds, and will learn how to date arrowheads and axe heads.

Week 5 – 2.5 hours (September 30 – October 1)

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

We continue digging and sifting. We hear about the four groups of indigenous people who have lived in this region – the Paleoindian group, the Archaic group, the Woodland group, and the Potawatomi, particularly the Pokagon Band who still live in the area.

Week 6 – 2.5 hours (October 7 – October 8)

Archaeology Dig – Wolf's Prairie Dig, 313 N Cass Street, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

We classify our finds and start measuring and photographing them.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - In addition to the 2 items below, what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

- 1) Students agree to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Unexcused absences resulting in failure to meet 80% threshold may result in program discontinuation.
- 2) The Partnership Student Assessment is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The rubric is found on the teacher's online attendance sheet. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, excessive absences, etc. may result in program discontinuation.
- 3) Other class-specific assessment: Engagement in the program, follow through with instruction, care taken with handling artifacts, and participation in research of artifacts found.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):

www.tarragindi.org/resources - page on our website giving links to local history resources.

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:

Attendance: Students can attend any one of the two scheduled classes each week. They are also welcome to come more often if they want to, or make up a class by attending another class time.

Behavior: To dig carefully, identify everything you like about others (not what you don't like about them), zero tolerance of bullying, report bullying, have fun!

Weather: If it is raining, the class will be canceled and all students mailed. Dr Sigvartsen will still go down to the site to ensure everyone got his email message.

Other: Do not enter the dig site or dig when Dr Sigvartsen is not there. Be kind to the neighbors and visitors to the Courthouse Square museum by parking in the designated areas, being courteous, and keeping the noise down.