

Fieldwork Opportunities Open to volunteers



Archaeological research permits us to reconstruct the history of past societies by studying the material remains that have been preserved on site for centuries.

Fieldwork, which have become more and more technically advanced and scientific over the years, enables archaeologists to reconstruct the everyday life of past human societies. **In order to truly understand archaeology, or for students of archaeology to complete their course of study, it is essential to participate on a dig.**

The department of Archaeology in the french Ministry of culture (sous-direction de l'archéologie / SDA), in collaboration with the regional departments of cultural affairs (les Directions régionales des affaires culturelles), present an **annual listing of archaeological excavations open to volunteers**. Each site is authorized by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, under the Heritage Code (Livre V et Livre VI) , and is integrated into their program of scientific research as defined by the National Council of Archaeological Research (CNRA).

Information pertaining to these excavations is available either online at the Ministry of Culture and Communication's website: www.culture.gouv.fr/fouilles or by mail to the SDA. Most excavations are not open to minors (under 18); however, under certain conditions, select sites will accept volunteers from the age of 16.

The Field Director is responsible for the organization of the dig itself (participants, lodging, daily schedules, etc), as well as the stated goals of scientific research of the excavation. Tasks allotted to participants vary from site to site and from day to day. These may include the excavation of structures, sketching the site/structures/artifacts, topographical work, photography, et cetera. Although the conditions of admission are site specific, each site requires that volunteers be both motivated and dedicated to their work as well as be in good health and general physical condition. Furthermore, a current vaccination against tetanus is required of every applicant.

The listing of fieldwork opportunities will be available online in April.

Geographical classifications

France is divided into 22 administrative regions which are further divided into *départements* (equivalent to counties), *communes* (city or district) and *lieu-dit* (place names)



Sous-direction de l'archéologie

182, rue Saint-Honoré

75001 Paris

France

archeologie@culture.gouv.fr

www.archeologie.culture.gouv.fr