

# ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

This summer's camp was the hottest on record, but that didn't stop our campers! This year we excavated the Shuter's Hill site (pictured bottom right), located behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Past excavations have uncovered evidence of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century estate, artifacts associated with Civil War occupation, vestiges of a late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup>-century plantation, and traces of Native American activities.

Through their excavations, campers helped archaeologists to learn more about this exciting site, and have expanded our understanding of the landscape.



Learn more about Archaeology in Alexandria and upcoming events at [www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org](http://www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org)

## Archaeology Field Methods

City archaeologists and camp assistants taught campers how to conduct research and the proper methods for excavation.

Campers set in their new units using geometry, removed the sod on top, excavated one level at a time using trowels, and screened the soil for artifacts. At the end of each level, campers recorded their observations on their unit level forms and in the personal Field Books.



*(Left) Serenity Chavez teaches Robert and Kara how to take a Munsell Soil Color sample.*



*(Right) Noah and Adam screen soil for artifacts.*

## Lab Day at the Archaeology Museum

On Thursday, campers learned how to properly wash and dry brush the artifacts that came out of their units.

As they worked, campers identified and sorted the artifacts on their trays, and then selected a few to research using the lab manual and comparative collection.

The artifacts they selected were then brought back to the field for the site tour on Friday.



*(Above) Hannah, Noah, Adam, Finn, and Paul wash artifacts.*



*(Above Left) Campers went on a walking tour of interpretive signs and historic markers in Old Town to help plan their site tour for the following day. (Above Right) Campers put their ceramic mending skills to the test by smashing vessels and then putting them back together again.*



## Revealing the Landscape

With the use of their new archaeology skills and with lots of diligent work, this year's campers helped discover the remnants of foundations in each of their units. Likely evidence of at least one outbuilding associated with the nineteenth-century house, this discovery has helped archaeologists better understand the landscape of the site.



*(Left) The lighter soil shows where a wall once ran through the unit. The absence of foundation stones means that it is likely a robber trench, where stones were removed and reused elsewhere.*

## Campers Showcase Their Work at the Site Tour

After a full week of learning field and lab methods and conducting their own excavations, campers showed off their work during their own site tour. When visitors arrived, they learned about archaeological methods, site history, and the significance of this year's excavation.



*(Above) Paul, Robert and Parker explain foundations found using GPR.*



*(Left) Misty, Ross, Hannah, Adam and Kara explain the history of the site including the fires of 1842, 1873, and 1905.*

*(Right) Ryan, Noah, Sasha, Finn and Peter C. explain the archaeological process and show off the stratigraphic profile map that they created.*



## Thank you, 2019 Campers!



Adam	Kara	Hannah	Ross
Sasha	Ryan	Peter N.	Finn
Peter C.	Misty	Paul	
Noah	Robert	Parker	