Information Form: Piedra Pintada Archaeological Field Project, Baja California Sur, Mexico, January 5 to 26, 2004

Thank you for your interest in the Piedra Pintada archaeological project. Please note that an application form is required of students who wish to join this project. Unfortunately, this project can accommodate only a limited number of students. Application to the project is not a guarantee of acceptance. Students will be selected in accordance with the criteria set forth in the application form on a first-come basis. You will not be enrolled until all paper work is completed, and we have received your fees. All project participants will need a passport or birth certificate to travel to Mexico.

Schedule and Travel Arrangements:

The Piedra Pintada project will be held between January 5 to 26, 2004. An advance team will arrive in La Paz, BCS on January 5 to make logistical arrangements. Students and project volunteers will arrive on January 12 and return on January 26. Students must purchase their own airline tickets. Students are strongly advised to coordinate their travel plans with the project staff. The project will make reasonable efforts to pick up students at the Los Cabos International Airport on January 12th, but students are responsible for providing their own transportation to the site in the event that the project is unable to arrange transportation from the airport. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to bring relatives, spouses, friends or pets to the field school.

Living Conditions:

Meals will be provided at the field site. These meals will be provided by personnel hired for this purpose. Please note the project will not be able to accommodate specialized diets, such as vegetarian meals. On field trips away from the site, students are expected to bear the cost of their own meals and personal expenses.

The project will occupy a camp without electricity or running water. Students and staff will be living in tents. Bathing in the ocean and/or “solar showers” (sun-heated water) will be provided. Please see the discussion below of required personnel gear.

Since the project is located in a remote location, medical care will not be immediately available. Applicants should take into account any health-related condition that may be adversely affected by this situation.

Personal Gear:

Each student is required to provide a tent and sleeping bag. A backpack, flashlight, boots, hat and clothing suitable for camping will also be needed. Consult with the project staff about required gear. **Students may not bring firearms, bows and arrows, spear guns or other weapons to the site.**

January weather in Baja California Sur is generally warm during the day and cool at night. The best approach is clothing suitable to both warm and cool conditions, layering your clothing as needed for prevailing conditions. Include a swimsuit with your gear.

A special note about illegal drugs: The Mexican authorities have a zero tolerance policy regarding illegal drugs. Persons bringing banned substances to Mexico are subject to long periods of imprisonment. This warning should be taken very seriously.

Your Excavation Kit:

Each student is required to supply some items of personal gear for use in excavation. Many field archaeologists take great pride in developing their own, personalized dig kit. Some essential items in such kits are not overly expensive and include the following: A pointing trowel with 5 to 6 inch blade; the
Marshaltown brand is the traditional favorite among archaeologists. A small line level is needed. This is a small level, about 2 to 3 three inches in length, containing a glass vial with leveling bubble. A retracting-blade tape measure, marked in metric graduations, of about 3 meters (10 feet) length. Look for one with English and metric graduations, as these are the most commonly available. A three-ring binder, clip board and assorted pencils (#2 hardness). A couple of soft paint brushes (from about 1 inch to 3 inches in width), and one "whisk" broom, about 6 to 10 inches in length. A small tool or fishing tackle box or pack to carry all of the above is valuable.

**Working Hours:**

Owing to the need for a degree of flexibility, field and lab work will generally start between 7:00 and 8:00 am and end between 3:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Depending on the availability of transport, field trips to points of interest in Baja California Sur will be arranged.

**Guests of Mexico and the Project:**

Project members are expected to behave in a manner that reflects our status as guests of Mexico and our academic partners at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz. A field school environment places people into a communal setting where everyone must be prepared to make compromises as regards preferred living arrangements. Everyone is expected to work safely and constructively with others. Students who fail to do so will removed promptly from the school.

**Field School Fees And Academic Credit:**

If you are accepted for the field school, we cannot process your enrollment until we receive your fees. Please do not send fees until you have been notified of your acceptance for the field school. If you cancel your enrollment, the University reserves the right to retain a 10 percent handling fee. The University also reserves the right to retain all fees if you cancel your enrollment during the field school or if you should be required to leave the site as a result of disciplinary action. Enrollment will be limited to a maximum of 8 students.

Students seeking academic credit should inquire about transferring units from California State University, Northridge to their home institutions. Credit offerings include the following:

- Anthropology 476E: Excavation Methods in Archaeology (3 hrs).
- Anthropology 499 Directed Study

Fees are as follows:

- Enrollment for no academic credit= $200.00
- Enrollment for 3 hours of credit= $440.00

**Release Forms and Personal Safety:**

Participants will need to sign liability release forms, including a general waiver of liability, field trip release form, and air travel release form before going on the site. The school has an excellent safety record, with no serious injuries to date. The project will take every step to insure a safe and productive experience. On the other hand, project participants will spend considerable time out-of-doors and working in conditions that require attention to safety. The liability releases are an indication that each participant understands and accepts this responsibility.

The project does not require one to be in extraordinary physical condition. It should be recognized, however, that fieldwork imposes greater physical demands than the sedentary lifestyle experienced by many of us. If you are out of shape, a program of physical conditioning in the months before the project is
a very good idea. Generally, people who are in good physical condition are less at risk for accidents or injuries and have the stamina to better enjoy fieldwork. Living in a field situation and working vigorously out-of-doors also requires a willingness to endure fatigue, heat, cold and variety of circumstances that come with archaeological fieldwork. Students should be prepared to cope with these sorts of conditions.

The 2002 Research Program:

The 2004 field season will be dedicated to excavation of an open-air, prehistoric archaeological site located in the mountains of the Baja California Sur, about mid-way between La Paz and Los Cabos. Students from CSUN and Mexican students from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur will participate in the project.

Staff:

The field school staff is headed by Drs. Mark Raab and Matt Boxt from CSUN. Professor Fermin Reygadas of the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur will be a co-principal investigator. If you are enrolled, you will be sent more information about schedules, transportation and other information. Enrollments in the field school will be limited to a maximum of 8 CSUN students. If you are interested in the school please act promptly, as enrollments tend to be filled quickly. If you would like to apply for admission to the project, contact:

Dr. Mark Raab  
Department of Anthropology  
State University  
Northridge, CA 91330  
(818) 677-3575  
fax: (818) 677-2873  
email: mark.raab@csun.edu
Submission of this application is not a guarantee of acceptance by the Field School. We regret that we cannot accommodate everyone who applies to the School. Qualified students are accepted in the order that we receive a complete application, including fees. In general, we are seeking to train students who intend to pursue advanced academic training and careers in archaeology. We evaluate student qualifications on the basis of three criteria: (1) The applicant must demonstrate good academic standing as an upper-division (junior or senior) or post-graduate student in an accredited university Department of Anthropology. (2) Preference is given to students who have identified archaeology as a probable career. (3) Each applicant must submit two letters of recommendation from faculty or other persons who are familiar with the academic work and experience of the applicant. Send the completed form to: Dr. Mark Raab, Department of Anthropology, State University, Northridge, CA 91330-8244, or fax to 818-677-2761 or email to: mark.raab@csun.edu.

1. Name: ________________________________ 2. Social Security Number:_________________
3. Address: _____________________________________________________________________________
4. Telephone:_________________________
5. Academic Major, and Class Standing
   (e.g., Freshman, Sophomore, Graduate Student): _________________________
6. Previous courses, field or lab work in archaeology
7. Special skills. Do you have skills that may be useful during the school, for example mapping or surveying; drawing or illustrating; ability to use computers; still or video photography; or others?

8. Please have two references sent on your behalf. You might want professors or persons who know your abilities and interests to send recommendations (use attached forms).

9. Please describe any medical or physical condition that might affect your health or safety during the field school. Any information provided about your health or physical status will be kept confidential, except for project personnel who have a need to know. We would like to know about any medications, medical conditions or physical limitations that should be taken into account in the event that you need medical attention during the field school.

10. Please provide a brief statement on this page describing why you believe that you would benefit from attending the field school.
11. Please mark the following items in which you wish to enroll:

   No academic credit: _____

   Anthropology 476A: Introduction to laboratory research on excavated materials (3 hrs). _____

   Anthropology 476E: Excavation Methods in Archaeology (3 hrs). _____

   Anthropology 699: Special topics in archaeology; topics to be arranged by instructor. This class is intended to support graduate research projects (3 hrs). _____

10. If you are enrolled in the field school, you acknowledge that you have read the attached information sheet about the school, and that you understand and accept all of the conditions set forth in the information form, Part A.

   Signature of Applicant: ________________________________________

   Date: ___________________

If the applicant is less than 21 years of age, please have a parent or guardian sign:

   ________________________________________________________________

   Relationship to applicant: __________________________________________
Piedra Pintada Archaeological Field School Recommendation Form

________________________ has been asked to send this reference in support of his/her application for the January 2004 archaeological field school at Piedra Pintada, Baja California Sur Mexico. This School offers online course work and a two-week training program in archaeological excavation, site survey and lab work. In your estimation, how would this student benefit from the school?

Person giving reference: ____________________________________________
Title: ______________________________________
Date: ________________
Please send to: Dr. Mark Raab, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Northridge, CA 91330-8244 (fax: 818 677-2873; e-mail: mraab@csun1.csun.edu).
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