Do you remember the first time you got excited about archaeology? The sense of adventure that it inspired in you? Were you with a school group or perhaps with your family on vacation? Did you share it with others in a college classroom or at a community event? Recall that feeling of the first time you discovered people from a distant time connected to you in the present. That moment while looking at an artifact or feature where you experienced the connection that this place or this object was meaningful to someone—just like you—long ago. Maybe you were watching a demonstration, and it dawned on you just how “cool” it was that someone could make a tool out of things found in the environment around them.

That sense of discovery, inspiration, experience, and connection is among the most basic ties that bind people together in a culture. Because archaeology provides us with the ability to form a tangible connection with the past, it becomes incredibly meaningful to how we perceive our relationship with the past. These ideas influence what cultural features and spaces get preserved for the future shaping not only our perception of the past but also the futures’ perception of us. The wonderful part about the connection that archaeology provides us is that it doesn’t have to be limited to when you are young—it can happen at any age, again and again. Some of us came to love archaeology as children, but a lot of us came to appreciate archaeology later in life. Regardless, all of us that love archaeology, understand the fundamental beauty of discovery, inspiration, experience, and connection to the past.

A shared passion for archaeology is what inspired the creation of the South Carolina Archaeology Public Outreach Division (SCAPOD) in 2010. SCAPOD was born out of the ideas and passions of three archaeology students at the University of South Carolina. It started with a simple conference paper talking about the need for more archaeology outreach in schools, and eventually it grew into a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to encourage knowledge of South Carolina’s cultural heritage and archaeology through dynamic programming. Our board of directors still include the three original co-founders, but now includes several other professionals interested in helping promote SCAPOD’s mission.

Today, SCAPOD offers a wide variety of programs designed to encourage future and long-lasting support for archaeology in South Carolina. Over the past nine years, SCAPOD has been involved in a variety of different partnerships with historical and archaeological entities such as SCIAA, the Southeastern Archaeology...
Conference (SEAC), the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC), the South Carolina State Museum, Historic Columbia Foundation, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program and more. These partnerships have greatly diversified our programmatic capabilities. We have held programs with people of all ages in schools, museums, and libraries, at archaeology public days, through archaeology site tours, at STEM festivals, at civic talks, and beyond.

SCAPOD is Growing and Needs Your Help

Until now, SCAPOD has been solely managed and run on primarily a volunteer basis by its board of directors and co-founders. For the past nine years, all marketing, planning, administration, program development, and execution has fallen on the shoulders of these dedicated individuals. The SCAPOD board of directors has decided that it is time for the non-profit to move into its next phase of growth. SCAPOD is currently seeking to expand by hiring an Executive Director to manage our growing non-profit. The only catch? Well, it is extremely hard to procure funding for the grassroots purposes we need. SCAPOD has the potential to grow to be a viable work experience opportunity for archaeology students interested in outreach, but we need the solid platform of a paid leadership position in order to make this happen. Most nonprofit grants and foundation funding are reserved for specific program creation and presentation. Finding public resources to fund a paid director position for two years in order to grow the organization is much more difficult. That is why we are asking for your help. Your tax deductible donation will help SCAPOD reach the goal of hiring an Executive Director, allowing us to grow and expand to reach people throughout the state of South Carolina.

You may ask yourself, why give? Let me take a moment to chat with you about why SCAPOD is important and integral to cultural preservation in South Carolina.

SCAPOD Can Help You Rediscover Adventure

People spend a lot of time and money trying to recreate the thrill of discovery. One beauty of archaeology is that it gives you the opportunity to discover over and over again: in the field, in the lab, through a site tour. There is so much potential for adventure through archaeology! SCAPOD programs help facilitate that discovery through original programming and partnerships with other organizations throughout the state.

Some of SCAPOD’s programs are geared towards bringing you close to the archaeological experience through guided tours of active sites. Many archaeological projects in the state have partnered with SCAPOD to provide visitors a tour that not only informs you of the cultural significance but also gives you a detailed description of the current excavation. Those who come to these tours are likely to...
experience something new each time they visit. Your donation would help SCAPOD hire an Executive Director to manage our growing programs as well as secure future funding and expand program delivery.

SCAPOD Can Help You Inspire Adventure

SCAPOD’s Archaeology in the Classroom series are designed to bring quality archaeological programming to the schools of South Carolina. These programs use archaeology as a tool for teaching about anthropology and our shared cultural heritage. Programs include an overview of the archaeological profession with hands-on activities that reinforce archaeological concepts. Lessons and activities are tailored to each class in order to deliver an archaeology program that meets the student’s needs and interests.

Archaeology in the Classroom programs have been funded from a variety of sources including grants from South Carolina Humanities Council, Target, and private donations from Midlands Gives and other individuals. These funds help provide free Archaeology in the Classroom programs to schools, giving students, many of whom are low-income, the opportunity to experience a diverse range of cultural programming. Most of the schools we have provided programs for are Title 1 schools with a large low-income demographic. Every year, the demand for Archaeology in the Classroom increases, far outpacing the availability in both funds and staffing.

SCAPOD has partnered with the national program, Project Archaeology, to help educate teachers in using archaeology lessons in the classroom. Project Archaeology uses archaeological inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures, improve social studies and science education, and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy. Two of SCAPOD’s co-founders have attended Project Archaeology’s Master Teacher workshop and learned how to teach others how to use the Project Archaeology curricula. SCAPOD’s partnership with Project Archaeology and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) provides South Carolina teachers a rare opportunity for earning professional development credit for attending free teacher workshops.

SCAPOD has many other large-scale programs in development, waiting for the next level of growth. Afterschool Archaeology will bring archaeological experiences similar to Archaeology in the Classroom to afterschool programs across the state. Archaeology in the Library is tailored to fit the needs of public libraries in the state and the wide range of ages and experiences of their patrons. These programs are currently undergoing testing with a series such as We Dig Library Books, where children excavate artifacts that represent their favorite books. We are also hoping to develop a series of Summer Archaeology Camp activities and classes that can be used with partner organizations to enrich their summer curricula.

When you give to SCAPOD, you give a child an opportunity to be inspired, just like you were. Who knows—that child could go on to become an archaeologist who transforms our view of the world.

SCAPOD Can Help You Experience Adventure

SCAPOD has many different types of volunteer opportunities. We do depend on countless volunteer hours to help with preparing program materials, writing lesson plans, and presenting programs. We also have digital needs, such as blog and social media posts. If you’re artistic, we can always use archaeological themed drawings and sketches to use in developing new materials. Regardless of what you do, volunteering with SCAPOD is a unique opportunity to give back to your community. If you’re a student, or just looking for a new experience, think of it as a creative addition to your resume.

Although we focus on things from the past, SCAPOD also looks to the future. We are quite active in the digital realm. From Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to our website, SCAPOD keeps us all connected with what is going on in the state when it comes to archaeology. Our website contains everything from lesson plan to use in your classroom to a detailed explanation of cultural preservation laws. We even have a children’s section with archaeology coloring sheets waiting to be printed off and colored!

Giving to SCAPOD means that you allow us to keep the creative juices flowing, finding new ways to spread the love of archaeology.
SCAPOD Can Help You Share Adventure

Archaeology is a shared experience, just like the past cultures we study. When we talk about it, we are making the site, artifact, or feature meaningful in a whole new way. SCAPOD’s mission of preservation causes us to think not only about the past, but also about the cultural reflection that archaeology provides. It allows us to better understand ourselves and our community because we experience it together.

If you would like to know more about SCAPOD and our programming, please visit our website at www.scapod.org. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

We hope that you are inspired to help SCAPOD grow to the next level! Donations can be made securely online at www.scapod.org/donate OR you can send by mail to: 105 Oak Lane Cayce, SC 29033. All donations to SCAPOD are tax-deductible.