

Archaeology Dig - Dr Jan Sigvartsen

INSTRUCTOR

Jan Sigvartsen PhD
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AGE

6-18

FORMAT

IN-PERSON

HOURS

17 hours (more

hours available)

CLASS OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In this program, you will dig in a real archaeological dig. You will learn how to dig for artifacts, how archaeologists conduct a dig, identify and date artifacts, and catalog and record their findings. You are going to dig like the pros and you may uncover some amazing history from our local area.

We will be digging on a piece of land in Berrien Springs that was originally settled in 1836. From then until 1971, the inhabitants created a "Farmer's Dump" - an archaeologist's treasure trove of local artifacts from the past. The 2025 Spring Dig uncovered some amazing finds, including over 500 antique and vintage bottles. We are hoping to make new discoveries in the 2025 Fall Dig.

A parent, grandparent, or guardian is welcome to accompany you. Friends or siblings must be registered for this class with the parent partnership to participate. This program is for two and a half hours per week for seven weeks.

ARTIFACTS AND SAFETY

All artifacts found at the site remain the property of the property owner who has expressed an intention to donate items of historical importance to the Berrien Springs History Center, crediting the students for the find. Students will be allowed to keep some items with the property owner's permission, provided they are not sold or profited from. Items, flora, or fauna are not to be removed from the property without the property owner's permission.

Archaeology is a lot of fun and very rewarding, especially when you make a significant find. However, it is not without risks, even though they occur very rarely. We will take all precautions to ensure your safety, but consistent with archaeological digs, all participants will be required to sign a waiver.

Please remember that the dig site is private property and you or anyone you know are not to enter the site outside of class hours or when your supervisors are not there. Please respect the neighbors' right to privacy and peace by not entering their properties and only parking in the designated areas.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants suitable for being outdoors in September/October
- Rainboots, or sturdy shoes with a thick sole.

WE SUPPLY

- Dig tools and a dig kit that includes protective gear
- Artifact cleaning supplies
- A fire pit (to keep warm), marshmallows, drinking water, and an outdoor classroom

CLASS TIMES

- Tuesday 4pm - 6.30pm
- Wednesday 10am - 12.30pm
- Thursday 4pm - 6.30pm
- Friday 10am - 12.30pm

Except Week 1, Orientation - August 26 or 28 from 6pm - 8pm

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, August 26 or 28	ORIENTATION – OLD COURTHOUSE
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs August 26, 2025 - 6-8 pm or August 28, 2025 – 6-8 pm	All students undertaking Dr Jan Sigvartsen's five Parent Partnership classes this semester are required to attend orientation. There are two scheduled orientation times – you only have to attend <u>one</u> of these scheduled orientations (not both).
WEEK 2, September 2 - 5	HISTORY CENTER TOUR – at your selected class time
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs	This week we will take a tour through the Berrien Springs History Center and learn about the fascinating and multicultural history of Berrien Springs.
WEEK 3, September 9 - 12	DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	We will survey the area and decide where we want to dig, set up our dig squares, and start digging, cleaning artifacts, and cataloging.
Week 4, September 16 - 19	DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Digging, cleaning artifacts, and cataloging.
WEEK 5, September 23 - 26	DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Digging, cleaning artifacts, and cataloging.
Week 6, Sept 30 – Oct 3	DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Digging, cleaning artifacts, and cataloging.
WEEK 7 October 7 – 10	DIG SITE – at your selected class time
Dig Site - 6161 Pheasant Court Berrien Springs	Digging, cleaning artifacts, and cataloging.

YOUR PROJECT

Research an artifact and try to find an answer to: what was it used for, when was it made in this style, is the manufacturer still in business, do they still make that product, and how has this product changed over time? Is the product still used or has it been replaced with a new invention or technology?

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Jan Sigvartsen PhD has taught Archaeology and Ancient Religion classes at Andrews University, Michigan, and the Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, Germany where he was also the PhD Programs Coordinator and Associate Director of the Institute of Biblical Studies and Archaeology. He has participated in archaeological digs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States, has traveled extensively to historic sites globally, and has lived in Israel, Norway, England, Germany, Australia, and the United States. Dr Sigvartsen exceeds the [Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeologists as stipulated in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61.](#)

Leanne Sigvartsen originally trained as a psychologist in Australia and spent many years as a counselor and academic advisor for teens and young adults. She currently works with the Chicago-based *Center for Collaborative Study for Trauma, Health Equity, and Neurobiology* as their Research Project Director. She is a triple citizen of the United States, Australia, and Malta, and has lived in the United States, Australia, and Germany.