

From: **Coambs, Sandra - FS, NM** <sandra.coambs@usda.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2026 at 10:54 AM
Subject: 2026 Archaeology Summer Program at Tijeras Pueblo
To: Coambs, Sandra - FS, NM <sandra.coambs@usda.gov>

Hello!

I am the lead Archaeologist for the Sandia/Mountainair Zone on the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands. In collaboration with the volunteer group, Friends of Sandia Mountains, we are thrilled to welcome you to our 2026 Archaeology Summer Program at Tijeras Pueblo!

The Archaeology Summer Program is a special program our staff and volunteers offer once a year to youth in the greater Albuquerque area. This week-long program is intended to engage our youth in the outdoors and foster an appreciation for the rich natural and cultural resources that are in our backyards. The funding generated from the camp goes directly to the Friends of Sandia Mountains to help reinvest in the preservation/protection/interpretation of this important Tiwa cultural and historic site and in the stewardship of the Sandia Mountains. Throughout the week, we will provide participants with an introduction to the field/lab methods and concepts for how archaeologists study and interpret past human culture. While they will be receiving a lot of information, it is incredibly hands-on, with each activity designed to foster active learning and engagement. Below, I provide some logistics for the week. Please read through this section thoroughly.

Logistics:

Drop off/ Pick-Up

- Please arrive at 8:45 on the first day. The extra time will help parents/participants get oriented to where classes will be located and participants can pick up the equipment they will be using for the week. We will have greeters at the *north* parking lot of the Sandia Ranger Station (**11776 Highway 337, Tijeras NM 87059**). The greeters will take participants up to the museum. Parents will need to sign your child in at the museum each morning.
- Pick up is at noon every day. Please try to be on time.
- When you arrive for pick-up, you will need to come directly to the museum. The students will be waiting outside at the museum ramada. You will need to sign them out before you leave each day. Please bring your ID when you pick up your child. Based on your registration, we have a list of folks that are authorized for pick-up each day. If you need to add someone to this list, please email me directly at let me know their name and contact information.

What to Bring/Wear Each Day:

- Participants should bring snacks and a water bottle each day. We will have a large water jug available for participants to refill their water bottles. There will also be some extra snacks available.
- Much of the camp takes place at outdoors. Students should be prepared to spend the day outside and parents should monitor daily weather conditions. Please bring hats, sunscreen, and closed-toe shoes. Light weight long sleeve shirts and long pants are highly recommended for all days (except Friday). Long sleeve shirts/long pants will be

required for days where we will be excavating (Wednesday and Thursday). Also make sure students are wearing clothes that don't mind getting messy.

- Friday will be mostly in the museum, but we will also be learning how to process flotation samples. Please wear clothes that can get wet and dry quickly (or bring a towel).

Last Day Celebration and Close-Out:

- On Friday at 11:15, we will have a small close-out celebration where we will be presenting the students with a certificate of completion, have a special snack/treat, and flint knapping demonstration. We highly encourage parents to attend.
- We will be passing out feedback forms on Thursday at the end of camp. It would be helpful to us if you could fill these out (or have your child fill them out) and bring them back to us on Friday. We go over these evaluations every year and use the feedback to help us make the program better.

As a departure from our normal program of work, the Archaeology Summer Program is a week that my staff and I look forward to every year. It is always such a fun week!! Please reach out to me (sandra.coams@usda.gov) or Brittany Hughes (Assistant Zone Archaeologist: brittany.hughes@usda.gov) if you have any questions.

Best,

Sandra Arazi-Coombs
Sandia/Mountainair Zone Archaeologist
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands



Forest Service
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