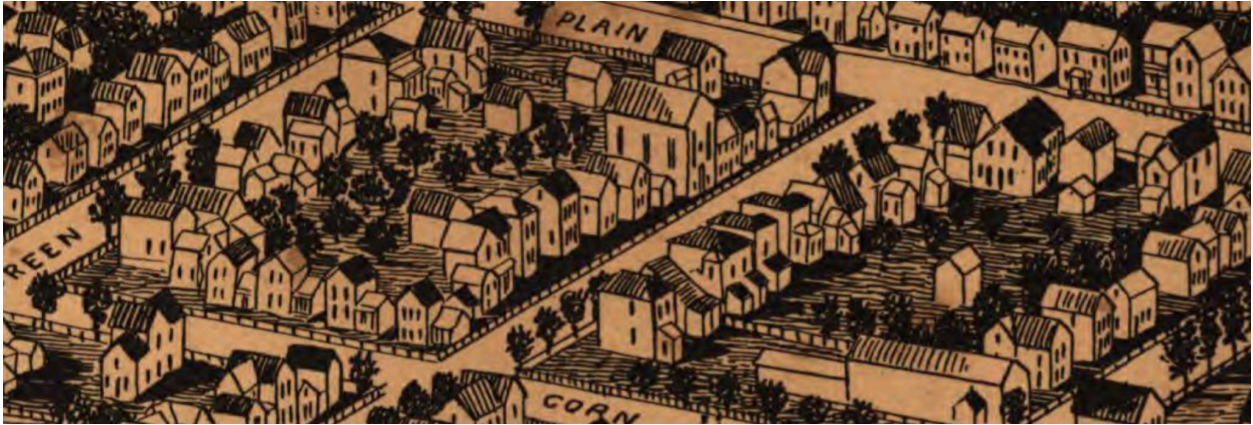


2022 Archaeology @ St. James Information for Community Participants



We are so glad you are interested in joining the [excavations at St. James AME Zion Church](#) (116 Cleveland Ave.). The excavations will be conducted in the garden of St. James, beginning with an orientation on Saturday, August 27, 2022 and continuing on Saturdays from September 10, 2022 through November 19, 2022 (there will be no excavations on October 8 due to the holiday weekend).

The orientation day will provide all participants with the tools and basic knowledge they will need to join the excavation team. The session will be held at St. James from 9-10am.

Excavations will be conducted from 9am-3pm in three 3-week cycles. Each participant will take part in a three session cycle, during which they will learn basic techniques of archaeological excavation and discover the history of St. James and the Underground Railroad. Each community participant will be paired with a student from Cornell University. The excavations will be supervised by faculty from Cornell's Institute of Archaeology and Material Studies (CIAMS) along with experts in the Underground Railroad from the Africana Studies and Research Center. Our goal is to explore connections between the results of the excavations and the oral histories and archival records about the Church and the surrounding community.

This packet is intended to provide both participants and caregivers a sense of the program and some of the basic logistics. Rev. Terrance King, community liaison for the research, can answer questions. Feel free to write to the excavation team as well.

Contact Information

Samantha Sanft (Excavation Director & Primary Contact): sms625@cornell.edu

Rev. Terrance King (Community Liaison): terrance.a.king@gmail.com

Gerard Aching (Project Leader): gla23@cornell.edu

Adam Smith (Excavation Assistant): ats73@cornell.edu

Lori Khatchadourian (Excavation Assistant): lk323@cornell.edu

Excavation Emergency Contact #: 773-415-4782

Participation Agreement

In order to provide a safe and fulfilling archaeological experience, all staff and participants need to understand and agree to some basic community expectations. This community agreement is provided to families before the program begins to share and discuss with their child before the first day of the program.

- Enjoy each other and the experience!
- Do not engage in activities that could injure yourself or others.
- Ask for what you need—be clear about what that is and then let a staff member or fellow participant know how they can help.
- Follow instructions.
- Take care of the church and the neighborhood.
- Leave the area in as good or better condition as you found it. Be sure to put all food packaging back in your packs to be carried home with you each day.
- Be kind, in word and action.

COVID-19 Safety

All participants in the St. James excavations are expected to abide by Federal, State, and local COVID mandates related to vaccination and mask wearing. We will also follow all Cornell recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19. All Cornell student and faculty participants are required to be

vaccinated against COVID-19. It is recommended that children participating in the excavations also be vaccinated per CDC recommendations. Masks are required whenever inside the St. James church building, so should be sent with every participant. We will announce our outdoor mask policy at the orientation event in August based on county and Cornell recommendations.

Illness

Protecting the health of our community is our highest priority. If your child has any of the following symptoms associated with COVID-19, not otherwise explained (for example, by allergies, a recent physical injury, etc), then they should not come to the excavations. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep them at home:

1. Fever of 100F or above
2. Persistent Cough, Sore throat or difficulty breathing
3. Repeated chills and/or shaking
4. Muscle pain
5. Headache
6. Newly acquired loss of taste or smell

Your child should not come to the excavations if, in the last 10 days, anyone in the household:

1. Has been confirmed positive for COVID-19
2. Has been tested for COVID-19 due to suspected exposure and is awaiting test results
3. Was under quarantine for suspected exposure to COVID-19

In the event that your child should experience illness or injury during the excavations, we will contact you using the emergency contact numbers that you provide on the participant information form.

Dropping Off Your Child

Excavations start at 9am. Please have your child arrive promptly so that they can be fully informed about the work planned for the day. On arrival at the site, please check in with a staff member. If your child needs to arrive after 9am, please let us know so we can adjust our excavation schedule.

What To Bring

The main thing we want participants to bring with them is their excitement for discovery. Participants should also bring a mask, a bottle of water to stay hydrated, and a hat. Sunscreen on sunny days is highly recommended. It is a good idea to also pack any snacks that participants may want before or after the lunch we will provide.

Every student will be provided with an excavation tool kit that they will bring home with them from the orientation session. Students should bring this equipment kit with them for each of their excavation sessions.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided for participants by Cornell catering. If your child has special dietary restrictions, please let the staff know on the participant information form. Our catering service may not be able to address all dietary limitations, so participants are also free to bring their own lunch.

Picking Up Your Child

Pick-up for excavation participants is at 3pm. Children will only be released to caregivers listed on your authorized pickup list. So please be sure to list any caregivers who are authorized to pick up your child. Please be sure to check in with a staff member before departing with your child.

Inclement Weather

In the case of bad weather that prevents us from conducting excavations, we will send out a notice to the caregiver contact numbers provided on the participant information forms. Decisions will be made by 8am to either cancel or delay the beginning of work. If you have not heard from us, the dig will go on!

Questions or Concerns

We encourage families to reach out to us with your questions, concerns, or feedback!