

Creating the Ancient City: Social Investment of Peripheral Neighborhoods in the Making of Cahokia, USA

Program Information

What are the average weather conditions during the time of the field school?

This program operates in a hot and humid environment in southern Illinois. During the day, temperatures fluctuate between 70-100° F. Humidity is high and mosquitoes and/or flies may be close to the excavation area. You are required to wear sunscreen in order to protect yourself from sunburn. A hat is highly recommended. Additionally, students must drink plenty of water in these conditions to prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke.

Please describe the site(s) where the students will work, for example, outside and/or inside; in a city, town or rural area; shady or sunny, etc.

The site is located outside in a somewhat rural farming and industrial town/city with access to St. Louis, MO. We will be working in the sun. We do our best to provide shade via pop up tents, but cannot ensure that everyone will always have access to shade depending on the work they are doing during the day.

Are there special features of the program site?

Collinsville, IL is located about 20 minutes from St. Louis, MO which has several free and readily available activities to participate in. There are several free and well-appointed museums and parks, as well as professional sports teams (the Cardinals baseball team) and great restaurants. Additionally, we are near several state parks and the Tom Sauk National Forest in the Ozarks.

Will there be other people onsite with the field school or working in the same area? For example, other researchers, staff, or community volunteers?

The field school students will largely be the only on site workers with likely occasional visits from the community and/or other local researchers.

What does an average week look like?

We typically leave for the site by 7 AM and work until around 3:30, followed by a daily debriefing. On some nights there will be lectures in the evening after dinner. Weekends are free for students to explore and enjoy the local area.

What are the options for students to access money? Are there ATMs nearby? Should students plan to bring a certain amount of cash?

We are in a town that has banks and ATMs. No need to bring large sums of cash, unless the student wants to. The laundry facilities at Cougar Village takes quarters though, so good idea to bring some!

ACTIVITY LEVEL & ACCESSIBILITY

Please comment how accessible your site is for people with mobility challenges. Would someone using a wheelchair be able to participate? Someone who uses crutches or other assistive walking devices?

The site is relatively flat and students who have mobility challenges who use crutches or other similar devices would be able to participate, however wheelchair access would be difficult as the terrain is grassy and in some places grown over with foliage/plants.

PROGRAM COUNTRY & CULTURAL INFORMATION

What do you love about the country and area you work in? What do you think students will be most excited to discover?

We work in the US; learning about the importance of Native American histories is central to being a good steward of this country and its history.

How large is the community where students will be staying? Will students have opportunities to interact casually with local residents? Please describe.

Students will be staying on a college campus (Southern Illinois University) and will have the opportunity to interface with other college students.

Will students have opportunities to explore other areas of the country?

We do take one camping trip to the Ozarks in southern Missouri. Students may also explore the local area on the weekends.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

Please describe student accommodation.

Students will be housed in the dorms at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Housing consists of two students per bedroom in two-bedroom furnished apartments (4 people per apartment).

- Furnishings include a couch, 2 chairs, end tables, kitchen table and 4 chairs. Each bedroom includes 2 XL twin beds, 2 dressers, and 2 desks. Kitchens include an oven/stove and refrigerator. Apartments have access to Wireless internet and data jacks. A/C and utilities are included.
- Participants are required to provide linens, towels, small appliances (if desired), etc. University Housing will provide a shower curtain.
- Students will be required to keep their spaces clean, including cleaning and disinfection of common spaces (e.g., bathroom, kitchen.). Cleaning supplies will be provided by project supervisors.

Please describe how/how often students can do laundry.

- There is a community building with a laundry room containing both washers and dryers. The cost is \$1.25/load for the washing machine and \$1.25/load for the dryer. Students

can pay using quarters which they should bring from home as there is no coin dispenser in the facilities; laundry detergent pods can be used.

How are room assignments made? If rooms are assigned according to gender, how will you assign rooms for non-binary, trans and queer students?

Room assignments will be by gender and if students have a particular preference or concern we will do our best to accommodate that.

Are there options for single rooms? Would there be an additional charge (and approximate cost)?

If students wanted a single room we would need to arrange that early and it would require additional costs. We also cannot guarantee that there would be a single room available.

Will the program provide meals? If not all meals, please specify which meals students will be responsible for, and what facilities are available for them to get groceries and prepare meals.

Meals will not be provided for students but each apartment has a kitchen. A weekly shopping trip will be organized so students can purchase the food and ingredients they would need for their meals and snacks for the week. Students will be responsible for making and packing their own lunches which will be eaten in the field. Students are also welcome to use the kitchens in their apartments to cook their own dinners. Students are required to keep their kitchen spaces clean for both food safety purposes as well as for appropriate use of communal space.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

If students will fly, what airport should they fly into?

St. Louis Lambert Airport (STL)

If there are other ways students can get to the program, please describe.

Students can drive if they would like to.

Where will you meet students? If not at a primary arrival point, like an airport, how should students get to the meeting point?

Students arriving by air into the St. Louis Lambert Airport (STL) should take the Metro (red or blue line) to the St. Louis MetroLink Fairview Heights station. Project staff members will meet these students there at 4 pm on the arrival day. If you are driving please arrive at the apartment by 4 pm. Students are encouraged to drive if local to the region. Project directors and/or staff will not provide access to a vehicle for weekends, though there is a local bus service.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email the field school director immediately. A local emergency mobile phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

If the field site is not close to student accommodations, how will students get there? How long does it take?

Students and staff will travel from the housing location to the field site daily. The van will leave from SIUE Cougar Village at 7:00 am sharp and return by 4:30 pm. This is a 15 passenger van; should circumstances compel us to reduce the number of occupants, two waves of transport will occur and may require us to stagger the working hours. The site is about 20 minutes away.

PACKING LIST

Required Supplies:

- 1 tool box, cheap plastic is good, though softsided travels best
- 1 pointed Marshalltown trowel must be “Marshalltown” brand & 4.5 inch is best
<https://marshalltown.com/pro-3818-pointing-trowel>
- 1 steel file (a.k.a. bastard file)
- 2 clear plastic metric rulers (30 cm long)
- 1 Rhino metric folder ruler (a.k.a. carpenter’s ruler) www.forestry-suppliers.com , item 71112
- 2 small metric tape measures 3 to 5 meters or metric reel tapes
- 1 roll of **thin nylon string** (not cotton) fluorescent colors are great
- 1 line level (the kind that hooks over a string)
- 1 cheap plumb bob (don’t get the expensive brass kind)
- 2 metal tent spikes with green plastic tops (available at Wal-Mart)
- Several pencils (wooden or mechanical)
- 1 pencil sharpener if you use wooden pencils
- 2 “Sharpie” finepoint markers must be real Sharpies, only black ink, no ultra-fine point
- 2 bamboo chopsticks - you do not need an entire pack
- 1 personal first aid kit (bandaids, antiseptic)
- 1 water jug - you need a one-gallon insulated container

Other personal items to bring:

- Pillow, sheets, blanket, towels
- Sunscreen of suitable SPF
- Lunch container, ice packs
- Comfortable work clothes
- Canvas sneakers (might also want some hiking shoes)
- Comfortable but sturdy cloth or leather work gloves for screening
- Brimmed hat or baseball cap, bandana
- Rain jacket
- Sunglasses
- Foldable camp chair for use around dorms
- Prescription medications needed, enough for the entire field school
- Credit/debit card
- Extra glasses/contacts, if worn

Recommended

- Will students need formal or nicer clothes? No.
- Are there items that are hard to get locally, such as tampons or sunscreen? No.
- Shower shoes or indoor shoes? Yes, those may be wanted.

- Hiking boots/socks? Yes
- Swimwear? Yes
- How often can students do laundry? As often as they want; there is laundry on site at the university
- Items they should not bring? Weapons or illegal substances; smoking is not allowed on the SIUE campus where students will stay