



www.livingarchaeologyweekend.org

Living Archaeology Weekend is a free, annual, two-day public outreach event. It is one of few public archaeology education programs of its magnitude in Kentucky. LAW offers diverse educational activities in American Indian and pioneer lifeways, archaeological interpretation, and site preservation. It has educated tens of thousands of visitors over nearly 25 years.

HISTORY

- annual event since 1989
- developed by U.S. Forest Service, Red River Historical Society, and Kentucky Heritage Council
- operated by three agencies since 2007: U.S. Forest Service, Kentucky Archaeological Survey, and Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists
- since 1995 held at the Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center in the Red River Gorge of the Daniel Boone National Forest in eastern Kentucky

GOALS

- promote appreciation for cultural diversity and cultural accomplishments of American Indians and pioneer settlers in Kentucky
- inform about the past as it is known through archaeology, including the culture history of Kentucky and reconstruction of American Indian and pioneer lifeways
- foster respect for cultural resources and promote public stewardship of archaeological sites

AUDIENCE

- elementary school children: LAW offers one of few opportunities for high-quality “outdoor classroom” experiences in eastern Kentucky, fostering knowledge of and pride in local heritage
- annual Friday attendance is 800-1400 students plus 100 teachers, aides, and chaperones from 20-25 school districts and home school groups in Bath, Breathitt, Estill, Magoffin, Menifee, Powell, Rowan, and Wolfe counties, as well as Elliott, Fayette, Madison, and Montgomery counties
- general public: LAW draws visitors who come specifically for the event, many who are repeat visitors, or are in the area visiting other tourist destinations
- annual Saturday attendance is 800-2000 visitors from across Kentucky; from adjacent states like Ohio and Tennessee; from other states like Georgia, North Carolina, and Illinois; and from Germany and other countries

POINTS OF PRIDE

- LAW coordinator Johnny Faulkner awarded USFS Southern Region Forest Service Interpreter and Conservation Educator of the Year Award in 2007
- nominated for public education award from Society for American Archaeology in 2008
- produced over 40 original educational resources (lesson plans, glossaries, brochures, fact sheets, posters, seed packets, recipes) since 2008
- implemented summer teacher workshop and student essay contest in 2011
- subject of ongoing research project on student learning by nationally recognized social studies education and public archaeology researchers