



*The Gault School of  
Archaeological  
Research*



# Volunteer Guide

Welcome!



Dr. Michael Collins  
Chairman



Dr. Clark Wernecke  
Executive Director

More than 5,000 volunteers just like you have worked on the Gault site since 1999. Educating the public about archaeology and allowing them to experience what archaeology is all about is one of our non-profit's primary missions. We're happy that you would like to join us.

The information in this guide is designed to give you an idea of what volunteering for the GSAR is like – what to expect in the field and lab. Our staff is here to help you so please feel free to ask questions before, during and after your archaeological experience. We hope that you will return to work with us again and again.

Archaeology can be grueling work but we also feel it can be a lot of fun (and educational) as we try to reconstruct the lives of the earliest peoples in the Americas. On behalf of the Gault School of Archaeological Research we would like to welcome you and thank you for your support.

## A Short History of the Gault Site

The site has been known to archaeology since 1929 when J.E. Pearce, the first anthropologist at the University of Texas, went to work at a farm owned by Henry Gault. Pearce was interested in the burnt-rock middens on the farm which were characteristic of the Middle Archaic in Central Texas (3,500-5000 years ago).

In the years between 1929 and 1991 there was a great deal of looting and collecting at the site including a pay-to-dig operation. Because of this Texas archaeologists had written off the Gault site assuming that there were no longer intact deposits to study.

In 1991 a collector reported an unusual find from Gault– a Clovis point found with engraved stones. Drs. Tom Hester and Mike Collins from UT-Austin excavated in the same area for one week and found that there were both intact Paleoindian strata but also engraved stones – representative of the first art in the Americas.

The land changed hands again and the new landowners asked for help with another find which turned out to be the lower jaw of a juvenile mammoth (as well as horse and bison) surrounded by Clovis artifacts. An archaeological lease was

negotiated and between 1999 and 2002 more than 4,000 volunteers worked at the site. By the end of this excavation more than 1.6 million artifacts (now well over 2 million) had been recovered of which ca. 600,000 were of Clovis age – about 60% of *all* excavated Clovis artifacts in the Americas. In addition to more engraved stones a stone platform was discovered – the oldest known architecture in North America.

In 2007 the site was acquired and donated to the Archaeological Conservancy to protect it for the future. The GSAR administers and maintains the site while conducting research on site. The GSAR also owns land abutting the site with facilities for groups working at or visiting the site.

In 2009 the Gault site was declared a State Archaeological Landmark in Texas.

## How Can I Get Involved? Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities for volunteering with the GSAR. Some are:

- **Archaeological Fieldwork:** primarily excavation and screening though we do occasionally have need for volunteers to help in surveying or testing. There often is a great deal of physical labor involved such as digging, carrying and lifting. You are likely to get dirty and/or wet and there are long periods of standing or kneeling. No experience is required – we will train you in procedures and paperwork.
- **Other work in the Field:** we also need people to help us with campus maintenance, construction and conservation work. This has included lawn mowing, juniper and deadfall removal, remodeling, trail building, and plumbing. There are also groups that do quarterly surveys of the bird and plant communities at the site.
- **Lab work:** once artifacts are excavated they come to the lab to be washed, sorted, analyzed and curated. Volunteer positions in the lab are a lot easier physically and can be more time flexible. Lab work is done on weekdays and we do request that you commit to a schedule even if it is only two hours a week.
- **Other ways you can help!** GSAR: our non-profit is in need of and always looking for those who are willing to share their unique skills by lending their time and expertise over a wide variety of opportunities. We are looking for docents to help out during on-site tours. In order to achieve and maintain our mission objective and goals, education and public outreach programs are a vital part of our success. We need volunteers who enjoy and are willing to demonstrate their expertise in flintknapping or atlatl skills. Other opportunities include serving on our financial or education committees; by taking charge of a special event or coordinating speaker presentations. Do you or perhaps someone you know have a special talent or skill? Do you or someone you know have a special skill or talent that you are willing to share or put to work for the Gault School?

## How Do I Get Started?

**How to volunteer:** Contact our volunteer coordinator, Cinda Timperley, or the Executive Director, Clark Wernecke and let us know what you are interested in. If you are interested in specific fieldwork dates you must reserve a spot with our volunteer coordinator – the number we can take on any one day is limited and GSAR members will be taken first.

Nancy Littlefield      [nldigstexas@gmail.com](mailto:nldigstexas@gmail.com)  
D. Clark Wernecke      [Cwernecke@compuserve.com](mailto:Cwernecke@compuserve.com)

**Other ways to help:** Contact our Education Coordinator, Nancy Littlefield for more information regarding GSAR educational and public outreach programs or if you are interested in serving on a committee.

Nancy Littlefield      [NLdigstexas@gmail.com](mailto:NLdigstexas@gmail.com)

*If you decide to volunteer it is important that you follow through, especially with field and lab work. Many of these opportunities are limited as to the number of volunteers we can take for any day and no-shows effectively bar others from participating.*

## What to expect in the field

We require a properly filled out excavation waiver before you participate. There is a waiver attached to this package for your convenience.

**Temperatures and Clothing:** if you're not familiar with the weather in Texas you'll find if anything its variable. Gault Site temperatures have ranged from 30 degrees to 114 degrees depending on day and season. The excavation is under cover so we are not affected by rain, snow, sleet or high winds. In the winter we suggest layering while in the summer tee shirts with either long pants or shorts are just fine. Sturdy shoes – preferably boots, hikers or sneakers are fine but no sandals or bare feet. A good hat, gloves, bandanna, sun block and insect repellent are also good ideas.

**Equipment:** we have equipment for first time volunteers. You should bring a lunch, snacks and a water bottle (we will provide water for refilling). If you decide to join us regularly we suggest: knee pads or a kneeling pad, a 5" pointing trowel, a 3 meter (must be metric) retractable tape, a plumb bob, mechanical pencils, fine and regular point black Sharpie markers. If you do bring your own equipment please make sure it's clearly labeled.

**Bathrooms:** the available bathrooms are porta-potties several hundred yards from the excavation – plan accordingly.

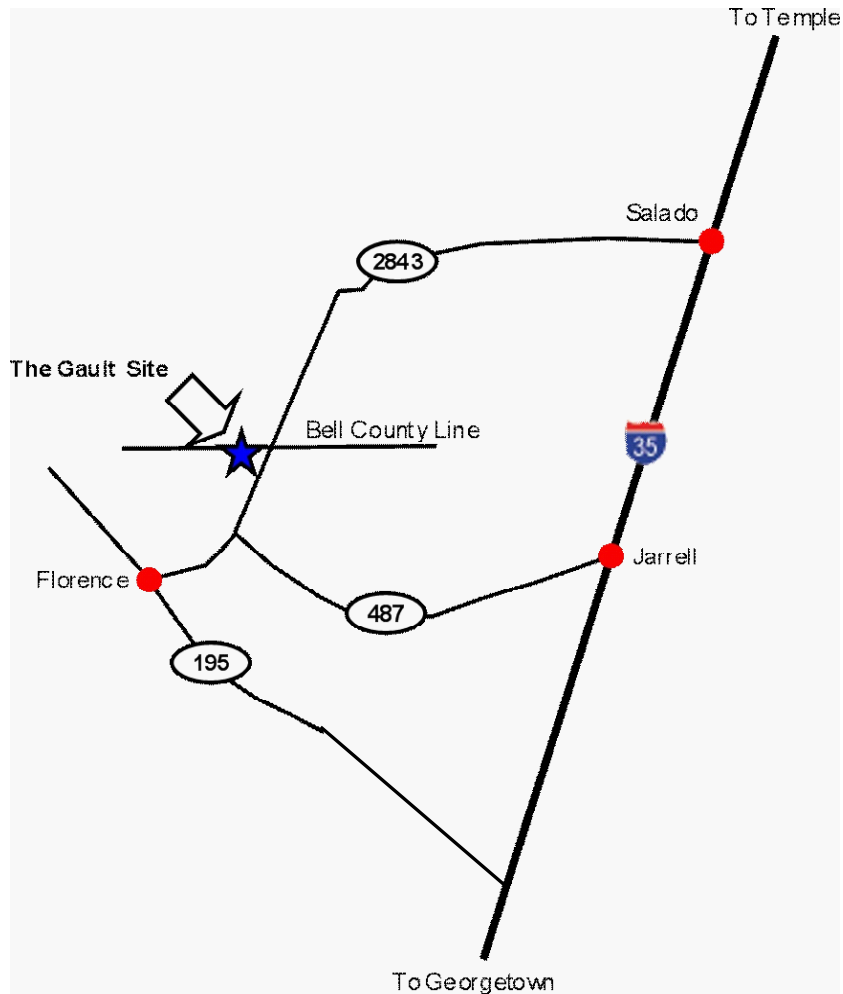
**Legal mumbo jumbo:** before you are allowed to excavate we must have a signed waiver for you – there is one attached to this introductory package.

### What to expect in the lab

Air conditioning and chairs set this distinctly apart from work in the field. Lab work varies from washing the incoming artifacts and doing the initial sort to long term projects undertaken with our analysts. Work assigned to volunteers primarily differs according to schedules and commitment. One-time volunteers generally work at processing incoming artifacts while long-term volunteers get integrated into more complex projects.

### How to get there

Attached is a map to the Gault site. After arrival at the gate you must either wait for the gate to be opened or, if it is already open, proceed straight back on the entrance road to the second gate bearing a GSAR welcome sign. Open this gate and proceed (carefully closing it behind you as there are livestock on the premises) to the parking area surrounding the field lab (large metal barn). If you are arriving later the excavation is directly down the white gravel path leading from the parking area.



### Directions to the Gault Site

#### From the South

I-35N to exit #266  
 Florence/Killeen/195

Turn Left follow 195, 15 miles to Florence

Turn Right at Stoplight on 487, follow 4 miles

Turn Left on FM 2843, go 3.5 miles

House on the left/west (3433) with red tiles is Gault School field house, next drive on left with two black mailboxes (3455) is the Gault Site (red stop sign on gate)

#### From the North

I-35S to exit #283, stay on feeder road about 1/2 mile

Turn Right on FM 2843, follow for 11 miles

Go south past the Williamson County line sign about 200 yards (if you pass Salado Quarry Pit #2 sign, turn around).

Gault site is on your right/west with two black mailboxes and red stop sign on gate (3455) and automatic gate, (address # series in Bell County is different than in Williamson)



**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

**THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!**

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the "release") is executed on this (date), \_\_\_\_\_ by (name) \_\_\_\_\_, in favor of the Gault School of Archaeological Research, a Texas non-profit corporation, (hereinafter referred to as "GSAR"), its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns, and that I desire to work as a volunteer for the GSAR and engage in the activities released to being a volunteer. I understand that the activities may include archaeological field and lab work as well as site maintenance duties.

I do hereby freely, voluntarily and without duress execute this Release under the following terms:

1. **Waiver and Release.** I do hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless the GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns from any and all liability, claims and demands of any kind or nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may heretofore arise from my work for the GSAR.
  - a. I understand and acknowledge that this Release discharges GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns from any liability or claim I may have against GSAR with respect to any bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death or property damage that may result from my work for GSAR, whether caused by the negligence of GSAR or its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns.
  - b. I also understand that, except as otherwise agreed to by GSAR in writing, GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health or disability insurance, in the event of injury or illness.
2. **Medical Treatment.** I do hereby release and forever discharge GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns from any claim whatsoever that arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment or service rendered in connection with the my work for GSAR.
3. **Assumption of the Risk.** I understand that the work for GSAR may include activities that may be hazardous to me, including, but not limited to, exposure to poisonous plants, wildlife, excavation and use of hand and power tools. I understand that while working for GSAR, I will work under control, and in a careful, prudent manner. I will avoid careless and reckless behavior while working for GSAR or while on the job site, and agrees he will heed the instruction of the authorized GSAR Site Manager. Violation of this agreement shall be grounds for the GSAR Site Manager to remove me from the GSAR site. I hereby release, agree to hold harmless and indemnify GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns from any and all liability for damage and/or injury to me or to any other person or property resulting from its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns, including subcontractors. I accept full responsibility for any and all such damage and/or injury, which may result from or during my work with the GSAR.
4. **Insurance.** I understand that, except as otherwise agreed to by GSAR in writing; GSAR does not carry or maintain health, medical or disability insurance coverage for any volunteer, and that each volunteer is expected and encouraged to obtain his/her own medical health insurance coverage.
5. **Photographic Release.** I approve the use by the GSAR, its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns and other sponsoring organizations of any photographs of me or members of my family taken by approved photographers during scheduled GSAR activities for use in publications or publicity and promotional projects as deemed appropriate.
6. **Publication.** I acknowledge that all information obtained by me during my participation in GSAR activities, including any cultural remains, samples, reports, drawings, plans, maps, summaries, written material, measurements, locations, photographs, video, analysis, or other such related information is the exclusive property of the GSAR or its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns. I fully acknowledge that I may not cause to be published or reported, either orally or in writing, any of the above described information to any third persons without obtaining the express written consent of the GSAR or its directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, successors, heirs, and assigns. I agree to be fully bound by the laws of the State of Texas in the event of any unauthorized publication of those materials initiated by me.

