Title: Sharing Archaeological Research with School Children and the Public

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Abstract: Most people are familiar with the field of archaeology, but its importance as a science is often not well understood by the general public. The Archaeological Research Laboratory (ARL) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is committed to fostering awareness that the past is a public trust and that each of us has a responsibility to know and understand the past. Through various public education and outreach activities, ARL strives to bring archaeology to people of all ages. We are especially interested in engaging individuals in science and scientific research as "citizen scientists." This presentation will share examples of ARL activities that geographers conducting paleoecological and geoarchaeological research could adapt for outreach activities that would broaden the impact of their research. Examples will be drawn from ARL's work with local schools and homeschool groups, and from our work in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for the Smoky Mountains Field School. We will also share our ideas about working with the Boy Scouts of America to administer requirements for an archaeology merit badge. Although the outreach activities we highlight were backed by the resources of a major research facility, many of our ideas can be adapted for use by individual investigators.

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