



Take a Peek into the Past— Visit the Annual Berry Site Archaeology Field Day



On Saturday, June 22nd, the Exploring Joara Foundation will host its annual Field Day at the Berry archaeological site near Morganton, NC. The event, held from 10 am until 2 pm, includes tours and interpretive presentations about this highly significant cultural site.

Since 2001, the archaeology department at Warren Wilson College has been investigating the Berry site, a 16th century Native American town at which a Spanish fort was built. Each year, a field school is held at the site, in partnership with Western Piedmont Community College.

The site was once the main town within a native chiefdom in the upper Catawba River Valley known as Joara. Under the command of Captain Juan Pardo, Spanish explorers built Fort San Juan there in 1567. Evidence has shown that the fort was likely attacked and burned during a 1568 uprising of native warriors against the Spanish soldiers.

In addition to learning more about this fascinating story, visitors to the Field Day will also see demonstrations of early technology and have the opportunity to purchase books and merchandise, the sale of which helps to support the Exploring Joara Foundation.

The Field Day is free, but a \$5 donation per car is suggested. For directions to the site, [click here](#).

The Exploring Joara Foundation was formed to promote public archaeology in the upper Catawba and Yadkin

river valleys of Western North Carolina. With a threefold emphasis on supporting research, education and outreach, the foundation is dedicated to finding and protecting archaeological resources while fostering an understanding and appreciation for archaeology in the community. The foundation supports work at the Berry site and runs a public archaeology program that includes field schools, teacher workshops, summer archaeology camps, and presentations and workshops for schools and organizations.

Exploring Joara Foundation is a recipient of a recent grant from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, awarded in support of the Catawba Meadows Archeology Interpretive Center. The center, to be located at Catawba Meadows Recreation Park in Morganton, will offer a rich "living history" experience to visitors and will benefit local and region schools, area residents and visitors.