



Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley

NEH Summer Institute July 14–August 1, 2014
University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

Logistics

updated: March 27, 2014

La Crosse is in the beautiful “Driftless Area” of southwestern Wisconsin. Located on the Mississippi River, it’s a great place for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and boating. The city has a casual atmosphere and jeans, pants, or shorts with shirts or t-shirts are appropriate for most places in town. July has the potential to be hot (80–100 degrees) and humid with temperatures varying during the day, giving us cool mornings and hot afternoons, so bring clothing that can be layered. We’ll be taking five field trips involving some walking, so bring comfortable walking shoes. Rain gear is also advised, as we’ll be taking our field trips rain or shine. Sunscreen, insect repellent (La Crosse has been called the tick capital of the U.S.), a water bottle, and a wide brimmed hat are also advised. We would highly recommend bringing a camera so you can record your experience. Please bring any allergy (bee stings, poison ivy, etc.) medication with you and notify the staff if you have any health issues they should know about. You might encounter some poison ivy in the area.

Optional Saturday Open Houses

Project Staff will host open houses on the two Saturdays (July 19 and 26) during the Institute. Activities usually take place in the afternoon. Food and some beverages are provided. The open houses are a great way to experience the area and connect with Institute participants and staff in a beautiful and relaxing environment. Participation is optional.

Information about the Institute Hosts

La Crosse is a great place to spend the summer. Located on the Great River Road, which winds north and south through 10 states, La Crosse (<http://www.explorelacrosse.com/>) is the hub of the geographic area known as the 7 Rivers Region. Densely wooded valleys, the famous Mississippi River and its tributaries, lush marshes and native prairies provide prime opportunities for outdoor recreation. La Crosse is known for its historic downtown district, which boasts dozens of specialty boutiques; we also have one of the largest malls in the region. In addition, there are dozens of restaurants, movie theaters and several venues that host concerts and other special events.

- Information about UW-L can be found on-line at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/>

- Information about Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center can be found on-line at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/index.htm>.
- Information about UW-L's Archaeological Studies Program can be found on-line at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/Sociology/Archaeology/>.

UW-L Reuter Hall Facilities

The project staff is encouraging the Institute participants to stay in UW-L's Reuter Hall for a number of reasons, including easy access, opportunity for informal interactions, and development of a sense of community. However, we do realize that some participants may decide to stay elsewhere. Off-campus housing opportunities are explained in a later section.

Reuter Hall is a newer residence hall (opened in September 2006) with a convenient campus location. (For a campus map, see <http://www.uwlax.edu/campus-map/index.htm>.) Reuter Hall was designed to provide living accommodations consistent with the needs of students. Accommodations are set up as suites with four private bedrooms, a semi-private bathroom, a kitchen area, and a living room. General-use spaces include a group kitchen facility, a lounge/game room area, a small group-study area, a mailroom, a recycling room, and multipurpose areas. This new hall also provides ADA-compliant living accommodations. Frequently asked questions about Reuter Hall are provided separately.

- **Reuter Hall Rates**
Motel style (includes once each week: 2 sheets, pillowcase, blanket, towel, washcloth, pillow): \$588 for the entire Institute - arrival July 13, departure August 2.
- **Payment**
Participants are responsible for paying for their Reuter Hall expenses before they leave UW-L. ***Payment must be by check or cash. Credit cards are not accepted.*** An ATM machine is located on campus in Cartwright Center. Make checks payable to UW-L Residence Life; include NEH Teacher Institute in memo line.
- **Reservations**
Once you've been notified of your acceptance into the Institute and have replied and accepted the offer, you'll need to make your Reuter Hall reservations by Friday, June 13, 3:00 pm central daylight time. *Reuter Hall rooms can not be guaranteed after June 13.* Contact Troy Richter at 608-785-8075 or trichter@uwlax.edu to make your reservation. When calling indicate that you are making a room reservation for the NEH Teacher Institute.
- **Reuter Hall Check-in and Check-out**
Reuter Hall staff will be available on Sunday, July 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for participant check in. Check-out will be on Saturday, August 2, from 8:00 to 10:00 am. *Please make every effort to arrive/depart at these times.* You are responsible for leaving the room the way you found it. Reuter Hall staff will be performing check-outs with each person to ensure the suite is being left in a good state. Additional information on check-out expectations will be provided when you arrive. If you can't check in or out at the scheduled times, let Troy Richter (608-785-8075 or trichter@uwlax.edu) know when you make your reservation or before June 13.

- Suitemates
Suitemates will be randomly assigned. Males and females will be assigned to separate suites. If you would like to share a suite with a particular person, let Troy Richter (608-785-8075 or trichter@uwlax.edu) know when you make your reservation or before June 13. You may want to connect with others through D2L to line up some roommates before June 13.

Meal Options

- Reuter Hall
For those staying in the Reuter Hall, each suite has a kitchen where you can prepare meals. *Please note, however, that the kitchens have only a stove, refrigerator, and sink, so you'll need to bring or purchase whatever else you need to make meals (pots, pans, dishes, utensils, food, etc.).*
- UW-L Cartwright Center
Food is available (limited hours during the summer) on campus in the Cartwright Center. Check hours at: <http://www.uwlaxdining.com/locations/cartwright.html>.
- Area Restaurants
There are several restaurants close to campus, including: the Eagle's Nest, Gracie's, Iguana's Mexican Street Café, Taco Bell, Toppers Pizza, Little Caesar's Pizza, Beef & ETC., Subway, and Tequila Mexican Restaurant. There are a number of restaurants downtown (within a mile or two).

Other Area Housing

A list of area lodging, campgrounds, and restaurants is available at the La Crosse Visitors and Convention Bureau Web site: <http://www.explorelacrosse.com/>.

There aren't any hotels really close to UW-L. Most of the local hotels are 10–15 minutes away depending on the time of day and traffic. Here are a few hotels and their relative locations. Most of those listed have Web sites.

- In La Crosse/Onalaska's big shopping/mall area (Shopko, Target, Wal-Mart, lots of restaurants, movie theaters, grocery stores, etc.) off Interstate 90, about 10 minutes from campus.
 - Baymont Inn and Suites
 - Hampton Inn
 - Stoney Creek Inn
 - Microtel Inn
 - Holiday Inn Express
- In La Crosse off Interstate 90 about 15 minutes from campus. (This was the main hotel/motel area before the mall came to La Crosse/Onalaska.)
 - Best Western Riverfront Hotel
 - Howard Johnson Hotel
 - Super 8 Hotel
- Downtown La Crosse about 10 minutes from campus.
 - Courtyard by Marriott
 - Candlewood Suites
 - GrandStay Residential Suites
 - Holiday Inn
 - Radisson Hotel

There aren't any campgrounds really close to UW-L. Most local campgrounds are about 15–30 minutes away depending on the time of day and traffic. Here are a few campgrounds and their relative locations.

- Bluebird Springs

<http://bluebirdsprings.com/>

About 15 minutes from campus.

- Goose Island Campground

<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/departments/facilities/campgrounds.asp>

A county campground on the Mississippi River about 15 minutes from campus. A few participants in previous projects have stayed here.

- Neshonoc Campground

<http://www.neshonoclakeside.com/>

About 20+ minutes from campus.

- Perrot State Park

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/campgroundDetails.do?subTabIndex=0&agency=wi&parkCode=perr>

On the Mississippi River about 20+ minutes from campus.

- Pettibone Campground

<http://www.pettiboneresort.com/>

About 15 minutes from campus on the Mississippi River.

Campus Parking

Free parking is available on the streets surrounding campus, or you can purchase a permit to park in one of the campus lots. Street parking on campus, including Farwell, 16th and 17th streets, requires a campus permit. Resident (dorm) or commuter permits for the entire Institute (July 13-Aug. 2) can be purchased on-line for \$30 at: <https://uwlax.clickandpark.com/event> . If you are staying in Reuter Hall we recommend that you purchase your permit on-line so that you are not ticked for parking in a campus lot Sunday night. Save the permit to your computer and print out a copy. Make sure you do not make multiple copies of the permit. Each permit gets a unique barcode. Duplicates of the same permit will be subject to citation. Contact the 800 number on the screen if you have an issue purchasing the permit. Proof of payment is required if you lose or forgot your permit. Without a proof of payment you will be charged for a new permit.

Permits can also be purchased at the parking office located in the Parking Ramp/Police Services building (campus map at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/map/>). Parking Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Directions to UW-L

- Directions to UW-L and campus maps can be found online at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/campus-map/index.htm>.

Travel to La Crosse, Wisconsin

- La Crosse Municipal Airport: <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.asp?NID=7>. The UW-L campus is a short taxi ride from the airport.
- La Crosse is conveniently located right off Interstate 90.
- Amtrak stops in La Crosse.

Transportation around La Crosse, Wisconsin

- La Crosse's Municipal Transit (MTU) provides bus service around La Crosse and neighboring areas. Information about routes, timetables, rates, etc. can be found online at: <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.asp?NID=19>.
- A number of taxi companies operate in La Crosse and the surrounding area. A Google search for La Crosse, WI taxi will provide contact information for several companies.
- Vehicles can be rented from a number of sources including Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National.

La Crosse Area Cultural and Recreational Resources

La Crosse and the "Driftless Area" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coulee_Region) offer a variety of outdoor recreational activities including hiking, biking, and canoeing. You can find a wealth of information (recreation, restaurants, cultural events, history, services, etc.) about the La Crosse area at: <http://www.explorelacrosse.com/> and <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/index.asp?NID=1>.

UW-L Campus facilities

- Institute participants will have the opportunity to use services in the Field House with the purchase of a pass. More information about offerings from Recreational Eagle Center can be found online at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/recsports/>. Fees and sign up information will be shared at the first class.
- Sports equipment (bikes, canoes, kayaks, in-line skates, camping, backpacking, etc.) is available for rental at reasonable rates from UW-L Outdoor Connection. You can find information online at: http://www.uwlax.edu/recsports/OC_EquipmentRental.html.
- UW-L Outdoor Connection also offers a "Green Bike" program that allows you to rent a "beater" bike for a nominal fee – if bikes are available. For more information visit <http://www.uwlax.edu/recsports/UWLGreenBikes.html> or contact UW-L Outdoor Connection at 608-785-8860.

La Crosse City Pool

The La Crosse City Pool is directly across from the UW-L Archaeology Center. It is available to city visitors for a nominal fee per visit.

ATM

ATM machines are located on campus in the Cartwright Center and are accessible when the building is open.

Pay Phones

Pay phones are *NOT* available on campus. Cell phones are suggested if you anticipate making phone calls while you are in La Crosse.

Computer Access and Printing

Computer labs are located around campus. While at UW-L you will be able to print a limited number of pages without cost in the campus computer labs. Additional printing can be done at Murphy Library at the public computers for a nominal fee per page.