

Information Sheet  
2018 SPA FIELD TRIP  
The Middle Mississippians and  
Their Neighbors

JUNE 12-17, 2018



Accommodations:

Participants need to make their own room reservations at the hotels where the bus will be stopping. Please make room reservations as follows:

**Tuesday, June 12:** Unless you live in the immediate vicinity of California, PA you will need to book a room for the night before our trip starts. Arrangements have been made at the Hampton Inn and Suites California University, 200 Technology Drive Coal Center, California, PA 724 330-5820, <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/hampton-inn-and-suites-california-university-pittsburgh-PITCAHX/index.html> Double rooms rates for the SPA group including taxes are \$99.00. Breakfast is included. We expect to be able to arrange for participants to leave their cars here during our trip. **Please reserve no later than May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Wednesday, June 13:** For the first night on the road we have made arrangements at the La Quinta Inn and Suites Cincinnati Airport, 350 Meijer Drive, Florence, KY 859 282-8212 [http://www.laquintaflorencecvairport.com/?cid=local\\_862](http://www.laquintaflorencecvairport.com/?cid=local_862) . Double room rates for the SPA group including taxes are \$134.83. Breakfast is included. **Please reserve no later than May 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Thursday, June 14:** For our second night on the road we have made arrangements at La Quinta Inn and Suites, 3960 Coleman Crossing Circle, Paducah, KY 270 443-4902, [http://www.laquintapaducah.com/?cid=local\\_6631](http://www.laquintapaducah.com/?cid=local_6631) . Double room rates for the SPA group including taxes are \$112.00. Breakfast is included. **Please reserve no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Friday, June 15:** For our third night on the road we have made arrangements at La Quinta Inn and Suites Collinsville-St.Louis, 6 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 1-618-855-8400 [http://www.laquintacollinsville.com/?cid=local\\_6738](http://www.laquintacollinsville.com/?cid=local_6738) . Double room rates for the SPA group including taxes are \$102.00. Breakfast is included. **Please reserve no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Saturday, June 16:** For our last night on the road we have made arrangements at the Quality Inn and Suites, 555 South Third Avenue, Terre Haute, IN 812 235-3333 <https://www.choicehotels.com/indiana/terre-haute/quality-inn-hotels/in352?source=gyxt> . Double room rates for the SPA group including taxes are \$89.67. **Please reserve no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

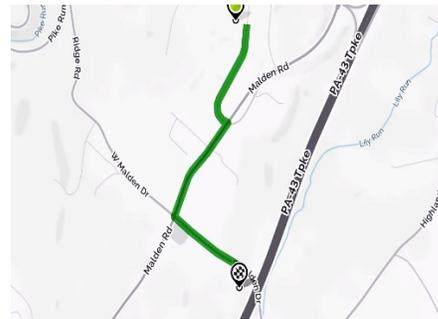
If you would like to share a room and would like us to match you with another participant, contact Sarah Neusius ([sraahneusius@gmail.com](mailto:sraahneusius@gmail.com)) or 724 388-0459 by **May 1.**

## Notes on the Itinerary

A **draft** itinerary is attached, although some minor changes concerning departure and arrival times probably will be made as we work with staff at the sites and museums, speakers, and the bus company to finalize trip plans. Please also note:

1. Our trip begins **Tuesday night June 12** when we gather for an orientation at the SAI Farm, a facility of California University of Pennsylvania between 8 and 9 PM. The farmhouse at this facility is equipped for meetings and banquets so we can provide a brief PowerPoint introduction, and get acquainted as we munch on snacks.

The address is 377 East Malden Drive, Coal Center, PA 15423. Plan to check in at the Hampton either before or after this orientation. Directions from the Hampton Inn are as follows Go south on Technology Drive to Malden Rd where you take a right. After approximately a third of a mile take a left on East Malden Drive. The SAI Farmhouse will be on your left.



2. On our first day, **Wednesday, June 13** we will be mainly in Ohio. Following an early morning departure we will drive to Columbus, Ohio and the Ohio Historical Center where we will have a tour led by Dr. Brad Lepper, Curator of Archaeology. This is the home of what once was the Ohio Historical Society. Among the exhibits at this museum is “Following in Ancient Footsteps” which covers 15,000 years of Native American heritage and displays many of Ohio’s most significant archaeological objects.

Following lunch we will proceed west stopping at Valley Vineyards in Morrow, Ohio for a little fun and relaxation to break up our trip. Since 1970 this family owned vineyard has been producing table and dessert wine, and more recently they have added craft beer. As part of your SPA fee we are providing everyone with either a wine or beer tasting. Then we will proceed southwest to our hotel in Florence, KY.

Wednesday evening at 8 PM, we will have a lecture at our hotel on new Fort Ancient findings from Dr. David Pollock and Dr. Gwynn Henderson, University of Kentucky archaeologists who are recognized for their expertise with Fort Ancient and Mississippian tradition archaeology. The Fort Ancient tradition represents the Mississippian neighbors in our title.

3. On **Thursday, June 14**, we will cross into the Central Time Zone, gaining an hour and arrive in the morning at Angel Mounds State Historic Site near Evansville, IN. This state historic facility is at the site of a large Mississippian town located on the Ohio River. It was occupied from 1050-1450 CE and had approximately 1000 inhabitants. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Indiana State Museums and Historic Sites maintains an interpretive center, and reconstructions of Mississippian buildings associated with its 11 platform mounds as well as nature and hiking trails at the 600 acre site. This major complex of

earthworks was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. Exhibits at the site also cover the importance of WPA archaeology.

After lunch we will continue on to tour Kincaid Mounds State Historic Site, also a National Historic Landmark, in southern Illinois. Kincaid is another Mississippian center with multiple mounds that was first excavated by archaeologists from the University of Chicago and more recently has been investigated by archaeologists from Southern Illinois University. It was occupied between about AD 1050 and 1400. We will be met by Dr Brian Butler, Emeritus Faculty from the Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale who has done extensive research on Mississippians in the Lower Ohio Valley. He has led excavations at Kincaid, where there is no museum, and he knows the site well.

That evening in our hotel in Paducah, KY we will have a movie night, watching movies about Cahokia and Mississippians.

4. On **Friday, June 15** we will begin the day with a visit to Wickliffe Mounds State Park in Wickliffe, KY. This small Mississippian center is located on the bluffs about 3 miles (4.8 km) from the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. It was inhabited from about 1100-1350 CE. Wickliffe Mounds also has an interesting more recent history as archaeological excavations in the 1930s led to its development as a tourist attraction under the name “Ancient Buried City” and this attraction included partially exposed human burials as well as other questionable interpretations. Today Wickliffe Mounds is controlled by the State Parks Service, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a Kentucky Archeological Landmark and State Historic Site. One other bit of trivia is that in 1986, Dr. Sarah Neusius was staff archaeologist at Wickliffe and she led excavations at the site.

We plan to leave Wickliffe at about 11 AM and stop at the USACE recreation area at Rend Lake near Benton, IL for our box lunch before continuing north. Then we expect to arrive at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Park at approximately 3 PM, view the Visitor Center video, and tour the museum, which closes at 5 PM. We will tour the site itself on Saturday morning.

Cahokia is the site of a pre-Columbian Native American city (c. 1000 - 1400 CE), located directly across the Mississippi River from modern St. Louis, Missouri. It is a World Heritage site recognized internationally by UNESCO for its cultural significance. The park covers 2,200 acres (890 ha), or about 3.5 square miles (9 km<sup>2</sup>), and contains about 80 mounds, but the ancient city was much larger. The largest mound known as Monks Mound is approximately 13 acres at its base and 100 meters high. This construction is larger than any Pre-Columbian structure north of Mexico. In its heyday, Cahokia covered about 6 square miles (16 km<sup>2</sup>) and included about 120 manmade earthen mounds in a wide range of sizes, shapes, and functions. Other important aspects of Cahokia are its woodhenges, one of which is reconstructed today, it's large man-made central plaza, it's 2 mile long wooden stockade, and Mound 72, which contained an elaborate burial complex. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahokia> - cite note-nps.gov-4Cahokia was the largest and most influential urban settlement of the Mississippian tradition.

That evening we will have a lecture by Dr. John Kelly, archaeologist at Washington University in St. Louis who has been working in the Cahokia area for decades. He led excavations at the East St. Louis site another large Mississippian mound center, which is west of Cahokia closer to the Mississippi river but contemporaneous and clearly related to Cahokia as well as several

other sites in the area. He will be in the midst of excavations located about 2 miles from “Downtown Cahokia” and will bring us up to date on research at Cahokia.

5. On **Saturday, June 16** we will return to Cahokia. Members of our group are invited to participate in a public walking tour of Cahokia and current excavations being led that morning by Dr. Kelly and Bill Iseminger, MA, Assistant Site Manager for Cahokia Mounds State Historic Park. Bill Iseminger has worked at Cahokia since 1971 and is the author of *Cahokia Mounds: America's First City* 2010. Those group members who are less mobile will have the morning to visit Monks Mound, the reconstructed stockade, and possibly other locations at the site at a slower pace as well as return to the museum and gift shop.

After we rendezvous for lunch, we will load the bus and head east to our hotel in Terre Haute, Indiana, crossing back into the Eastern time zone. Saturday evening we have time on our own.

6. **Sunday, June 17**, the last day of our trip, will begin with a drive to SunWatch Indian Village at Dayton, Ohio. This archaeological park is a reconstructed Fort Ancient Native American village located next to the Great Miami River. The dwellings and site plan of the 3-acre site are based on lengthy archeological excavations sponsored by the Dayton Society of Natural History, which owns and operates the site as an open-air museum. This site has two distinct periods of use from 1150-1300 CE and from 1300-1450 CE. Fort Ancient people were contemporaneous neighbors to various Mississippian groups and Mississippian influences are particularly evident during the latter occupation at Sunwatch. Dr Bill Kennedy, Curator of Anthropology for the Dayton Society of Natural History, which operates SunWatch, will lead our tour of the museum and reconstruction.

We will eat our box lunches at Sunwatch before heading back to Pennsylvania. Expected arrival at California, PA is 5:30 PM.

**If you have further questions:**

Please contact either Sarah Neusius at [sraahneusius@gmail.com](mailto:sraahneusius@gmail.com) or John Nass at [nass@calu.edu](mailto:nass@calu.edu)