



# Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

Located at the TUSD Ajo Service Center, 2201 W. 44th Street, north of John F. Kennedy Park and west of La Cholla Blvd.

Mailing Address: PO Box 40577, Tucson AZ 85717-0577

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation

520-798-1201

[info@oldpueblo.org](mailto:info@oldpueblo.org)

[www.oldpueblo.org](http://www.oldpueblo.org)

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational and scientific organization that was incorporated in Arizona in 1994. Old Pueblo's mission is to educate children and adults to understand and appreciate archaeology and other cultures, to foster the preservation of archaeological and historical sites, and to develop a lifelong concern for the importance of nonrenewable resources and traditional cultures.

Programs offered to fulfill Old Pueblo's mission include publications, archaeological field schools, a membership program that provides research and education opportunities, the "OPEN" simulated archaeological dig education program for children, the "OPENOUT" educational outreach program for both children and adults, an internship program for students and others, archaeological and cultural site tours, and web-based education programs, among others.

## **THE "OPEN" SIMULATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Old Pueblo Educational Neighborhood (OPEN) program allows children and adults to learn about different cultures by participating in the excavation of a full-scale model of an ancient Native American archaeological site. Old Pueblo's first simulated archaeological excavation site, OPEN1, was an idealized reconstruction of a southern Arizona Hohokam culture archaeological site that included full-size replicas of prehistoric pithouses and other cultural features the Hohokam used for daily living, cooking, storing things, and other sometimes surprising purposes. It was constructed behind Old Pueblo's original office at 1000 E. Fort Lowell Road in Tucson. When Old Pueblo moved to 5100 W. Ina Road in the Town of Marana, a new simulated archaeological dig site, OPEN2, was constructed in Old Pueblo's new courtyard. The OPEN3 simulated excavation site is located at Old Pueblo's latest address, 2201 W. 44th Street, on the campus of the Tucson Unified School District's Ajo Service Center. The OPEN3 site is protected by a large shade structure.

The OPEN1-OPEN3 program has been recognized as a superior children's archaeology education program in independent evaluations by both archaeologists and professional educators. It has received substantial funding from the Arizona Humanities Council, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, the Joseph and Mary Cacioppo Foundation, the Stocker Foundation, and other organizations.

Buried at the OPEN3 site are artifacts like those typically found in real Hohokam culture archaeological village sites. The items underground in the site include modern imitations of ancient pottery, stone tools, seashell jewelry, and animal bones donated by southern Arizona artisans, but also authentic prehistoric artifacts on loan to the OPEN program from the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona. Program participants are not allowed to keep the artifacts they discover at the site.

OPEN3 dig participants receive hands-on experience in methods archaeologists use to excavate real archaeological sites and make scientific interpretations about how ancient people looked, what they ate, how they constructed their houses, what language they spoke, what they believed in, and how they created beauty in their lives.

The OPEN program incorporates lessons from the nationally acclaimed "Project Archaeology" workshops developed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. This connection ensures that participants receive basic instruction in archaeology and culture in addition to experiencing hands-on excavation and follow-up discussion of their discoveries in the OPEN3 dig.