

Steps to follow if you find an artifact ...

- 01** Take a **picture** of it on the ground where you found it
- 02** Take a **GPS** point of where you found it
- 03** You can either leave it where you found it, and tell the Forestry Center or bring it back to the **Forestry Center** to drop off in the wooden artifact box

The evidence of residential life here in the Pinnacles takes many forms, but often the most obvious is the presence of artifacts. Occasionally, those walking through the Pinnacles may see artifacts such as **chert flakes**, **broken projectile points**, or pieces of **stone tools**.

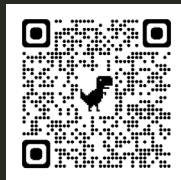
What we want to avoid is removing these items from their context. Instead of taking artifacts home, we want to encourage leaving them where you see them or turning them into the **Forestry Outreach Center**.

Berea College Archaeology

Berea College Archaeology is a small and consistently growing group of students and faculty pioneering efforts to uncover, conserve, and educate on local history.

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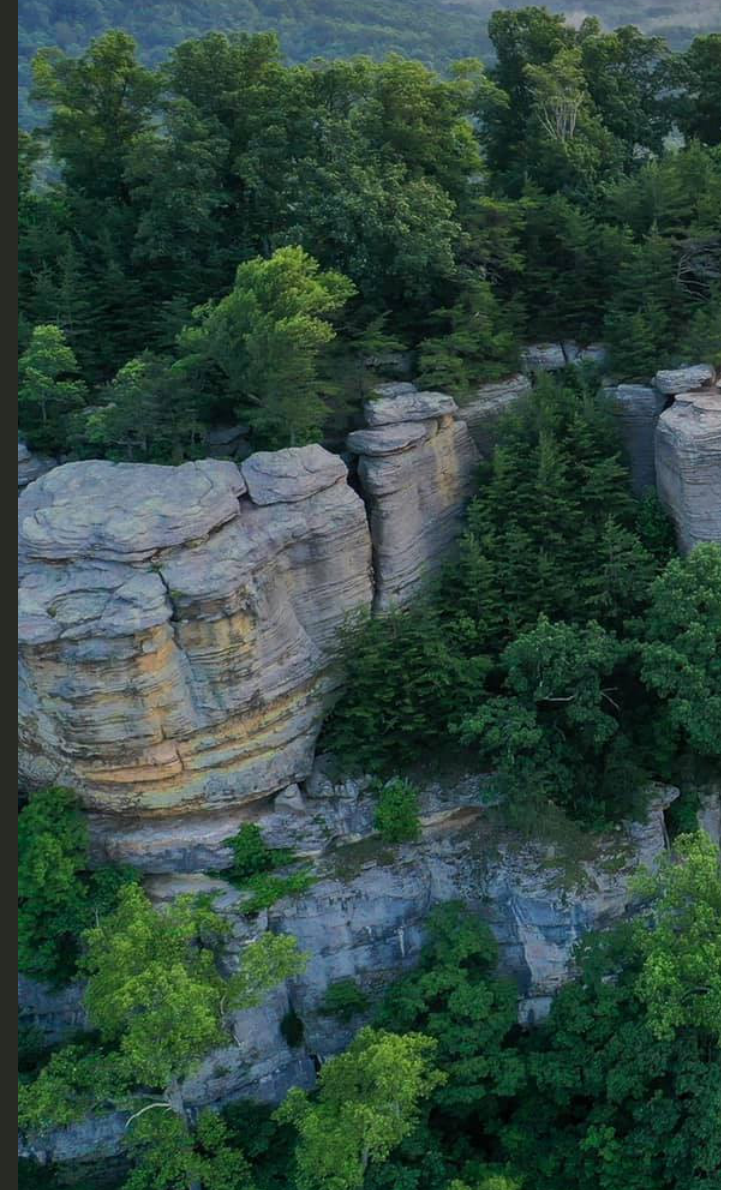
Check out some of what we have done so far!



 @beria_archaeology



Archaeology Uncovers History of Berea College Forest



For thousands of years, the land now known as the Berea College Forest has been a space of living and residing for the Shawnee (Shawandasse Tula / Shawanwaki) and Cherokee, East (ᏍᏏᏉᏍᏏ/Tsalaguwetiyi) people. A common myth about native occupation in Kentucky, despite archaeological evidence to suggest otherwise, is that the land was used only for hunting and that they merely “passed through”. However, it’s important to note that this is very much not the case - the land we now occupy has been part of the ancestral homelands of these indigenous nations for thousands of years. For many people across time, this land was (and still is) home.



Archaeology at the Pinnacles



There have been archaeological surveys and projects done at the Pinnacles for almost a century. Some of those earlier projects are responsible for the mislabeling of “Indian Fort” mountain, where surveyors wrongly concluded that stone walls around the mountain, the presence of stone axes, and projectile points meant that the mountain was the site of a battle and a fort. This is not the case; stone axes and projectile points were not only weapons but tools used in everyday life. Over time, the archaeological work done at the Pinnacles has evolved. Now, any work done focuses on highlighting the real history of the Pinnacles and its status as a part of the ancestral homelands of indigenous Shawnee and Cherokee.

Erasure

It is commonly believed that Native Americans are one conjoined group. However, that could not be farther from the truth. The monolithic view of Indigenous populations erases the presence of diverse nations and tribes that have resided in Kentucky for **thousands of years**. Native American identities and cultures have been reduced to the blanket term “Indian,” leaving many non-Natives uneducated about the tribes who actually occupied the Pinnacles, specifically the **Shawnee** and **Cherokee**.

The umbrella term can be harmful and appears in the name of “**Pinnacle’s Indian Fort Mountain Trail**.” The trail’s original name does not accurately represent the indigenous tribes who resided in the area (**the Shawnee & Cherokee**). Instead, the trail’s title refers to both tribes under one name, ignoring their unique differences.