

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM FLINTWORKING SCHOOL

The Idaho State University Museum flintworking school is an apprentice program held each summer with the assistance of the National Science Foundation. Four graduate students are selected for admission on a competitive basis and receive a stipend of \$500 to defray expenses while attending the school. An Idaho State University graduate assistant in flintworking is responsible for camp life and the maintenance of the program during the one month period of the field school.

Students learn basic percussion and pressure flaking techniques by working with Don Crabtree. Half of each day is spent in this way. The work pattern includes discussion of background and on-going flintworking. Each of the five students is given personal supervision as he or she replicates finished tools and their by-products by several techniques. The second half of each day is spent with the student working on his or her own with the help of the graduate assistant and occasional visitors among whom have been Francois Bordes and Gene Titmus. Each student may bring archaeological materials and problems to camp for an exchange of ideas and an opportunity to experiment with replication and possible solutions to those archaeological problems. Weekends may be spent at different quarry sites collecting different raw materials, including materials suitable for hammerstone.

Since each person varies in the rate of success, the early part of the apprenticeship goes slower than the later part when students have become to acquire particular skills in stone tool making. Some work is done in common with students attempting to produce replicas by different techniques but other work includes students doing different things for different purposes. The aim is to achieve as much independence for each student as possible so that experimental flintworking will continue into the future at other institutions.

Ca. 29.5.22