

**Eastern States Archeological Federation**  
Annual Student Paper Competition

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit abstracts for 20-minute, single-author papers or posters on any topic related to prehistoric or historical archaeology in the eastern United States and the eastern provinces of Canada. Student papers are placed within the flow of the conference in appropriately themed sessions, or may be part of an organized session if they have been invited to do so. Papers will be judged by a panel of scholars drawn from the fields of archaeology, anthropology, history, material culture, and American Studies.

**Who Can Enter?**

Students currently enrolled in an academic program on a full-time basis are eligible. Scholarly products with multiple authors are allowed provided that all authors are currently enrolled students. Participants must be current members of ESAF.

**Guidelines:**

Judges will assess base their decisions on the following criteria:

- Content—Is the work well organized? Is a problem or research question presented and answered by the student? Does the student use archaeological data and/or relevant theory to support the argument? Is the research question placed within a larger social, cultural, or economic context? Are appropriate sources used to support the argument?
- Presentation—Judges will consider the oral presentation (the presenter's ability to communicate to an audience) as well as the student's overall presentation of their research, and how well they integrate theory with archaeological data. The judges will also evaluate the use of audio-visual aids.
- Contribution to the field—Judges will consider the originality of the research, as well as its overall contribution or usefulness to the field of archaeology.

One winner in each class (poster and presented) will be invited to the annual banquet dinner where they will be presented with a certificate of award, a cash prize, and a one-year membership in ESAF. In the case of group authored product only, the lead author will receive the award. At the request of the author, the winning paper may be considered for publication in *Archaeology of Eastern North America* at the discretion of the AENA editor.

**Submission Information:**

ESAF paper submission rules apply. Presenters must be members of ESAF and pay registration fees to be eligible for the competition. The deadline for the paper title, abstract (maximum of 150 words), meeting registration, and ESAF membership is August 30, 2026; paper title and abstract are to be completed by following the online abstract submission link at [www.esaf-archaeology.org](http://www.esaf-archaeology.org). Please indicate your participation in the competition by checking the Student Paper option.

State societies and CRM firms are encouraged to sponsor students submitting papers to this competition by underwriting their registration and/or ESAF membership costs.