

James Madison Montpelier Field School
Bigel Grant Proposal

Field School Goals/ Expected Outcomes

This Summer I intend to be accepted into Montpelier's 2024 Archaeological Field School**. In said Field School, I will put to use the archaeological techniques that I learned about in the past semesters. This includes Digital Mapping, mobile photogrammetry, basic curation skills, artifact processing and Public Archaeology. In Historical Archaeology, we learned about engaging the public in the archaeological process and how their input can help to shape a project. We will take this concept and apply it to the work being done at Montpelier's Burial Ground for the Enslaved. We will work closely with the Montpelier Descendants Committee to uncover the extent of the Burial site and how their ancestors memorialized their dead. I also aim to learn more about enslaved African funerary practices.

Research Design Methods

The Research Design Methods have yet to be dictated to me by Montpelier's Field School.

Budget and Budget Narrative

Tuition for Montpelier's 2024 Summer Field School is \$1,100 which includes housing. Travel expenses are not covered, therefore based on current prices, a plane ticket to Richmond, Virginia would be about \$500+ round trip. Rides sharing to and from Montpelier will be about \$220. This does not include transportation to and from the grocery store, about \$180. Because I have very specific dietary needs, a month's worth of groceries can cost \$250+. The final \$170 will go to any expense I accrued upon the way given that I will be out of work during the time of the field school. This includes but is not limited to any gear expected to be brought with me. I plan to apply for other scholarships and grants to cover wages loss.

**If not accepted I have an alternative plan to volunteer at the New Jersey State Museum working on projects related to their collection of artifact from Skunk Hollow/ Closter Mountain. Joan H. Geismar's work about Skunk Hollow has be integral to research on Free African American Settlements. Having access to this collection will help to better understand the daily lives of the community members and identify their stance in society. A smaller budget of \$1500 should cover travel expenses to and from the museum in Trenton, NJ, plus a small stipend.