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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Boomers Discover a Passion for Archaeology at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

CORTEZ, Colo. (May 24, 2011)—For many baby boomers, this is the time of life for rekindling a passion for learning, or in some cases, contributing time to a worthy cause. The not-for-profit Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in southwestern Colorado offers a perfect way for boomers to quench their thirst for an archaeology learning adventure, and at the same time, contribute to the understanding of the ancestral Pueblo Indians (the Anasazi) who inhabited the mesas, canyons, and plains of the Mesa Verde region for more than 1,500 years.

“Many people who come to Crow Canyon for our adult programs are over 40,” said Shirley Powell, Crow Canyon’s vice president of programs. “They want new and enriching experiences and they like knowing that their work will help out in our research.”

During Crow Canyon’s Archaeology Research Program, participants excavate alongside Crow Canyon archaeologists and educators, learning basic excavation techniques and how to identify artifacts. In the Center’s lab, participants wash and catalog a variety of pottery and stone tools that provide insight into how the ancestral Pueblo people met the challenge of living off the beautiful, but rugged, landscape of the Southwest.

For boomers who love to include grandchildren in their adventures, Crow Canyon offers a Family Archaeology Week. The week includes fun hands-on activities for the entire family, as well as the opportunity to work side-by-side with archaeologists in the field and lab.

Archaeology Research Program and Family Archaeology Week participants stay in comfortable, Navajo-style log cabins (hogans) and enjoy three delicious meals every day. Both programs wrap up with a guided tour of Mesa Verde National Park.

This year, Crow Canyon is embarking on a new research project—the Basketmaker Communities Project: Early Pueblo Society in the Mesa Verde Region. This new project will focus on the Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500–750), a pivotal time of great technological advances and social change for the ancestral Pueblo people. To join Crow Canyon researchers on this new project, call 1-800-422-8975, or e-mail [cpatton@crowcanyon.org](mailto:cpatton@crowcanyon.org). Archaeology Research Program weeks are scheduled for June, August, and September. Family Archaeology Week is August 7–13. To learn more about Crow Canyon, visit [www.crowcanyon.org](http://www.crowcanyon.org).

#### **About the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center**

The not-for-profit Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, located near Cortez, Colorado, conducts long-term, multidisciplinary research into the ancestral Pueblo Indians of the southwestern United States and provides experiential education programs for adults and children. The Center also collaborates with American Indians on a wide variety of initiatives of mutual interest, including research projects, education curricula, and language- and cultural-preservation programs.

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