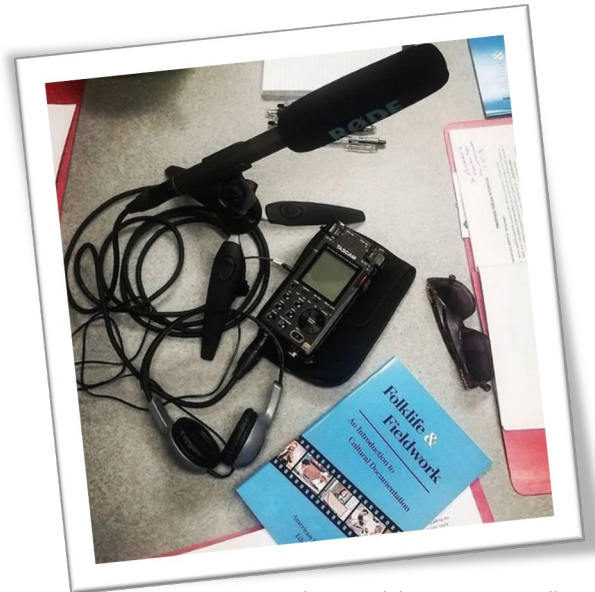


# THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Community Scholars Program of Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts is a training opportunity for Arkansans interested in finding, documenting, and presenting community culture, folklife, and traditional arts.

Participants are introduced to documentation techniques, ethics of working with communities, research and archiving methods, presentation of culture, grant writing, and project development. They become part of a statewide Community Scholar network, promoting, and advocating for traditional culture by sharing resources with fellow alumni of this program. A standard training consists of 5 biweekly sessions with short homework assignments. The program is flexible in format and content, based on the trainees' priorities and availability.

Arkansas' Community Scholars Program is a new statewide initiative modeled after the Kentucky Arts Council's long-standing program.



Photograph by Simone Cottrell

Key audiences for this program include:

- Individuals working with heritage and cultural tourism.
- Members of cultural organizations (museums, arts councils, places of worship).
- Educators, librarians, archivists, and genealogists.
- Artists, actors, storytellers, and musicians.
- Anyone with an interest in community documentation.

We aim to prepare Community Scholars to feel confident in developing projects such as:

- Oral history collections
- Exhibits large and small
- Web and digital content
- Cultural surveys and inventories on community traditions

With intimate knowledge of local communities, Community Scholars are well situated to present folklife through new or existing programs using presentation techniques learned through this training. Community Scholars can help build diverse audiences for cultural programming and inspire new appreciation for what makes their communities unique.



For more information, contact Virginia Siegel, coordinator for Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts at 479-575-7115 or [vsiegel@uark.edu](mailto:vsiegel@uark.edu).

Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts is a program of the University of Arkansas Division of Special Collections.