Cataloging Rock Art at the Smith Archaeological Conservancy:
A Middle-Schooler’s Perspective

by Emma Manross (8th grade)
and Daniela Medellin (7th grade)
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School
Archaeology Club:
The SHOVEL BUMS
The Shovel Bums are:

• A school Archaeology Club comprised of 5th through 8th graders
• With a passion for Native American culture
• Dedicated to stewarding rock art for all posterity
Shovel Bums’ Schedule

• Meetings every Thursday to learn the rudiments of archaeology

• Go into the field to take part in an archaeological activity on Fridays
Shovel Bums in the field
Blessed Sacrament School
Archaeology Club was started by teacher and archaeologist John McHugh in 2017
Our other supervisor is anthropologist

Christine Green
You may find the **Shovel Bums:**
Documenting Rock Art near Vernal
Cataloging rock art
for BLM archaeologist
David Christensen
Viewing Rock Art at Ashley Creek
Excavating in 9 Mile Canyon
Exploring Kachina Dolls with Glenna Nielsen-Grimm at NHMU
Getting some rock art pointers from
Nina Bowen
Cleaning and weighing artifacts at the Price Museum’s lab
Inventorying artifacts for Fremont Indian State Park curator Amy Ramsland
Eating a Dutch-oven dinner cooked by Darlene Koerner and Tim Sweeney in Vernal
Presenting at a URARA Symposium
Pin-flagging rock art at Lake Mountain with Steve Acerson
... or just Monkeying Around
But seriously...
In the Autumn of 2019 retired BLM ranger Randy Griffin asked the Shovel Bums for assistance.
Ranger Randy asked us to complete the mapping of the Smith Preserve, so it could be designated an “Archaeological Conservancy.”
The Shovel Bums accepted! And Ranger Randy quickly introduced us to ...
... State Compliance Archaeologist
Elizabeth Hora
Under Elizabeth’s guidance (and with the help of others) the Shovel Bums have been cataloging the 145 rock art panels on the North Knoll of the Smith Archaeological Conservancy.
These tasks include:
1st: Finding the rock art panels originally mapped by Steve Manning in 2014
We orient ourselves by finding panel 138
2\textsuperscript{nd}: Completing the IMACS rock art attachment form
Avery Jones completes an IMACS form at the Smith Conservancy
Alison Green measures a petroglyph for question #15 on the IMACS forms
8th grader Emma Manross fills out an IMACS form under the supervision of rock art expert Nina Bowen
Karly Lopez and Alison Green discuss the specifics of a petroglyph while filling out the IMACS form
3rd: Sketching the images in the panel
(The Shovel Bums’ Biggest Challenge!)
Emma Terhaar creates a shadow so Debbie Cutler can accurately sketch a petroglyph.
Challenges at the Smith Archaeological Conservancy

- Heat
- Spiders
- Midges
- Cheat grass in your socks (and other places)
The Smith Conservancy can get extremely hot and there are no trees for shade.
Peyten Bowers got heat exhaustion on one of the field experiences.
Emma and Daniela getting attacked by midges on our most recent field experience.
In the summer of 2019 we encountered thousands of spiders like this one.
Cheat grass problems

- Elizabeth Hora reminds people never to wash their cheat-grass covered socks with their underwear.
- We agree.
Through all the tough work we **Shovel Bums** bond and become better friends. Here are Rustin Hansen and Kenshiro Terhaar.
What the Smith Archaeological Conservancy Means to Us
“Images like this one at the Smith Conservancy bring me in touch with my Tarahumara ancestry. It reminds me of who I am.”

Daniela Medellin 7th grade
“The rock art provides a glimpse of ancient Native American thought. How can you not wonder what this might mean?”

Emma Manross 8th grade
“Smith Conservancy rock art allows us to speculate on how the Ancients survived. Many people believe this panel depicts a fishnet and its support.”

Isabela Pickers 8th grade
“Smith Conservancy rock art allows me to stand in the exact footsteps of the ancient artist. It transports me back in time.”

Emma Manross 8th grade
“The total repatination on this petroglyph suggests it was done by an Archaic person who never knew farming. What would that be like?”
Elizabeth Hora informed us that the following panels still need cataloging this Autumn:

# 34, 36, 45, 49, 50, 51, 52, 73, 87, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133, 139
We’re In!
We Shovel Bums see ourselves as STEWARDS of Utah rock art

• OUR GOALS ARE TO PRESERVE UTAH’S ANCIENT ROCK ART HERITAGE FOR EVERYONE’S FUTURE RESEARCH AND ENJOYMENT!