

# Site Stewards Code of Conduct

The primary objective of the SiteWatch program is to prevent the destruction of cultural resources in New Mexico. To do this effectively, it is essential that each volunteer understands and agrees to code of conduct outlined below. The code of conduct is a summation of ethical values to which professional archaeologists adhere, and this program strives to maintain. It is a guideline for how we act on those values. A site steward's conduct regarding adherence to this code must be beyond reproach.

## Compliance with Preservation Laws

Stewards are guided by this Code of Conduct, the Site Steward's Handbook, and by procedures established by the agency of jurisdiction, the SiteWatch Coordinator, and the Historic Preservation Division (HPD).

- Stewards comply with all Federal, state, and local historic preservation (antiquity) laws and regulations. These laws guide procedures established by the agency of jurisdiction, the SiteWatch Coordinator, and the Historic Preservation Division (HPD). In any activity not regulated by law, stewards are also guided by this Code of Conduct.

## Collecting

- Site Stewards *do not collect artifacts or any other materials* from archaeological or historic sites whether from the site they monitor or a site they visit outside the program.
- Stewards do not alter archaeological sites without the express and written authorization and specific guidance of the land manager. This includes improvement and maintenance activities which typically must be supervised.

## Respect for the Public and Partners

- Stewards provide a service to the federal, state, and local land management agencies with which SiteWatch works. Stewards will be aware of and comply with the rules of the land managing agency on whose behalf they are monitoring.
- Stewards will respect the right of the public to visit our public lands by being courteous to all land users.
- Stewards respect the rights of private landowners. Stewards do not trespass.

## Confidentiality

All information provided to and generated by SiteWatch volunteers, including, but not limited to, site location information, site descriptions, reports, maps, and photographs, are the property of the agency managing the site. Moreover, the information used and generated by SiteWatch is always confidential. In order to safeguard site location information, it is imperative that stewards hold program data in strict confidence in accordance with federal and state law (36CFR296.18 and Section 18-6-11.1 of the Cultural Properties Act).



- Stewards do not take family or friends to sites or areas the public would otherwise not be aware of.
- Stewards do not share site location with, or take other stewards, to sites they don't officially monitor without permission of the land manager obtained through their local SiteWatch coordinator.
- Stewards do not post SiteWatch field activities or pictures that could identify site location on social media or the internet.

## Law Enforcement

Site Stewards do not serve, or create the impression of having the authority to serve, in any law enforcement capacity while performing any site steward activity.

The use of a **firearm** on behalf of New Mexico SiteWatch, or during execution of SiteWatch duties is **strictly prohibited**. Violation of this policy is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

## Publicity

SiteWatch volunteers are agents of the Historic Preservation Division in service to public land managers. Please refer all interview requests to the land managers with whom you work or to the SiteWatch Coordinator. Any articles, letters to the editor or similar written materials that mention SiteWatch must be reviewed and approved by the state SiteWatch Coordinator and HPD.

## Conflicts of Interest

While participating in New Mexico SiteWatch, stewards will not engage in any activities or accept any positions that represent conflicts of interest with the goals and aims of the program. Examples of conflict of interest potentially include employment with an overland tour or adventure company, or dealership of antiquities or paleontological specimens. *Questions regarding conflict of interest should be referred to the New Mexico SiteWatch Coordinator at the time of application. Failure to disclose potential conflicts of interest if they arise may be grounds for dismissal from the program.*

## Transfer of Stewardship

Stewards are morally obligated to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with their successors. Additionally, all information related to archaeological or historic site monitoring (consisting of but not limited to: contents of the site file and any additional notes, maps photographs) is the property of the agency or entity administering the site. Upon leaving SiteWatch, each steward must transfer all material related to their SiteWatch work to the relevant chapter coordinator or land manager. This process will be completed within 60 days of termination. Should this process not be completed, NM SiteWatch may retrieve program materials through legal means.