

Nevada Site Stewardship Program

CODE OF ETHICS

The main objective of the Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP) is to discourage the destruction of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites on federal, state, and local government lands in Nevada through education and monitoring. Therefore, acceptance of the following Code of Ethics is required for all site stewards.

1. Compliance With Laws

In the course of their duties, stewards will comply with all federal, state and local preservation laws and regulations.

2. Protection of Archaeological Resources

At no time will a site steward engage in, or assist others in, any vandalism of or theft from an archaeological resource. Any such activity will result in the steward's dismissal from the program and prosecution under the full extent of the law.

3. Confidentiality of Information

All prehistoric and historic sites located on federal, state, and local government lands, including the site location, site description, vandalism reports, maps and photographs are the property of the government agency administering that site. All information is confidential and may not be shared without prior approval in writing from the government agency administering the site. Any break in this confidentiality will result in the responsible steward's dismissal from the Nevada Site Stewardship Program and prosecution under the full extent of the law.

4. Collections

Stewards will not collect any artifacts on federal, state, and local government lands unless explicitly directed to do so by a land manager from the government agency administering the site in writing. If artifacts obtained from federal, state, and local government lands are surrendered to a steward in the course of monitoring duties, the artifacts and reports detailing the surrender will be delivered to the government agency administering the site and the NSSP office will be notified. As stated above, any steward found to have taken artifacts from a site will be dismissed from the program and prosecuted under the full extent of the law.

5. Respect for the Public

Site stewards will remain aware that the public may perceive them as representatives of the government agency that administers the sites they monitor. They will carry out their activities in a courteous and professional manner and with respect for private property.

6. Transfer of Stewardship

Upon termination of stewardship, each volunteer will transfer all records, photographs and other documents pertaining to the Nevada Site Stewardship Program to the program office for return to the federal agency administering the site.

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I, the undersigned, recognize that prehistoric, historic and paleontological remains are irreplaceable resources that belong to the people of the United States. I fully understand the confidential nature of working at archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and related data. I agree to respect that confidentiality. I will ensure that specific site location information is not distributed to the public documents nor made available to unauthorized individuals. I will not misuse or misrepresent my participation in this program for personal gain to obtain access to sites, records or artifacts. I realize that the value of a prehistoric, historic or paleontological site is in its context, as well as its content, and disturbing a site will destroy a unique record of the past that can never be regained. In the event that I observe or learn of ongoing destruction of these resources, I consider it my obligation to notify the appropriate authorities. I, therefore, adopt the Nevada Site Stewardship Program (NSSP) Code of Ethics and will abide by all applicable historic preservation laws and regulations.

Signature

Date

Print Name:

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Signature

Date

Print Name:



Nevada Site Stewardship Program

Program Copy