

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ETIQUETTE GUIDE

## HELP US PRESERVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES!

You will encounter numerous archaeological sites when hiking and off-roading on public lands in Arizona, including within our beautiful state parks. Because archaeological sites are fragile, non-renewable resources that have sacred value to Arizona's descendant tribal communities, we ask that you follow these guidelines during your visit.



### ARTIFACTS

Leave artifacts where you find them. Artifacts are the single-most tangible resource that connects Tribes to their heritage; as footprints of the past, their significance is reliant upon where they are located. Once they are picked up and displaced, the scientific value of artifacts is compromised and these footprints are effectively erased. If you do pick up an artifact, please try to put it back where you found it, when you are done looking at it.



### ROCK PILES

Rock piles should not be altered or created. Don't rearrange existing rock piles or collect rocks to form a new rock pile. Such changes to the landscape can affect how sites are interpreted.



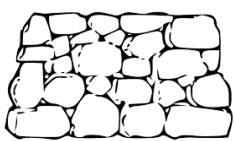
### CULTURAL AND NATURAL DEPOSITS

Cultural and natural deposits should be left intact. Soils and plants within archaeological sites have scientific and associated cultural values to Arizona's tribes. When hiking, biking, or off-roading, stay on trails and within other defined recreation areas and corridors. Do not bring pets to archaeological sites. In the cases where you encounter a site with your pet, be mindful of unleashing them as they may disturb cultural deposits. Do not smoke or set campfires near sites.



### ROCK ART

Rock art should be observed, not touched! Rock art includes pecked, carved and painted imagery that conveys ideas and stories considered highly significant to descendant tribal communities. Oils from our hands can cause deterioration, and graffiti of any kind is considered a highly destructive form of vandalism. Do not touch, peck, carve, etch, paint, spray, (etc.) any cultural features, especially surfaces that possess rock art.



### WALLS & ROCK ALIGNMENTS

Walls and rock alignments should be observed, not touched. Rock and adobe walls are fragile and in a constant state of deterioration. Don't climb, sit, step, lean or stand on the walls, remove any rocks, or rebuild fallen rock walls. Altering the formation of a room wall or rock alignment affects what can be learned about their placement and possibly their use or function.



## PHOTOS

Don't put photographs of sites on social media. While sites may be publicly accessible, their location is sensitive to descendent tribal communities. If you do post, please remove locational information and let others find these places for themselves!



## METAL-DETECTING

Metal-detecting, rock-hounding and geocaching should avoid culturally and ecologically-sensitive areas. **NOTICE:** Metal-detecting is not permitted in Arizona State Parks, and cannot be used to search for relics and artifacts on public lands.



## RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

Don't leave anything behind. Please take your trash with you and preserve the experience for others. Please be courteous and cleanup after your pets.



## SITE CLEAN-UP

Although we encourage you to cleanup after yourself, please refrain from picking up other trash on the site. This trash may actually be historic in nature and add context to the site to help establish dates of occupation, as well as identify habits of the people that utilized the site in the past. Do not clear vegetation from sites, as plants may provide insight to why the site was chosen by past cultures, and may provide cover to protect the site from the elements or hide the site from looters.

Call 1-833-END-LOOT to report observed evidence of looting, vandalism or trafficking to law enforcement. For your safety, do not talk to or approach anyone causing damage to a site.

For damage caused by natural occurrences (i.e. fire, flooding, wind, etc.), email: [azshpo@azstateparks.gov](mailto:azshpo@azstateparks.gov) with location, description of damage and photos, if possible.



For More Info Visit [AZStateparks.com](http://AZStateparks.com)

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