

## STATEMENT OF ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

PREAMBLE: The following principles are fundamental to the objectives of the Florida Anthropological Society. They establish guidelines by which FAS members and Chapters should direct their activities.

SECTION 1: The “preservation of archaeological and historical sites within the State of Florida,” is an objective of the Florida Anthropological Society (Articles of Incorporation, Article II, Section 1.5). All members and Chapters:

- (a) should abide by all federal, state, local or tribal laws and regulations that affect the archaeological record.
- (b) should report archaeological discoveries to the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research (formerly Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties), (central repository for information on cultural resources in Florida), the relevant regional or local authorities (i.e., planning departments, police or sheriffs department), and any involved property owners.
- (c) should report illicit or illegal activity concerning archaeological sites, and sites threatened with destruction to the property owners and/or managers, and appropriate public agencies and law enforcement authorities.
- (d) should protect sites from unwarranted intrusion by using care in the distribution of site location data.

SECTION 2: Since archaeological and historical sites are finite and unique sources of information about past human behavior, every site (which cannot be preserved) deserves the best possible quality of excavation, analysis, and documentation/publication.

- (a) To conserve archaeological resources, excavation shall be carried out only on sites that:
  - (1) are in imminent danger of destruction;
  - (2) have been extensively altered; or,
  - (3) contain important data that will help answer questions of a problem-oriented research design.

The practice of excavating or collecting solely or primarily for ‘teaching’ purposes is contrary to the standards of the Florida Anthropological Society. Existing collections of archaeological material should be used for these purposes. For sites in category 2(a)(3), unless they fall into 2(a)(1) or (2), only a representative sample should be excavated and the remainder preserved until the excavated materials have been analyzed and reported, so that later excavation strategies can be adjusted to maximize data recovery.

(b) Research undertaken by members should be of the highest possible quality, and in accordance with established archaeological standards of survey, excavation, laboratory analysis, record keeping, and other aspects of information gathering.

(e) Records of data gathered in the course of a survey or excavation should be properly maintained, and a copy of those records placed in an appropriate local repository and with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research, so that there will be a copy on file in the central statewide repository.

(d) All members should disseminate description of their research, methodology, and results.

(e) All members should curate all artifactual material in such a manner that:

- (1) its provenance data are recorded,
- (2) fragile items are preserved (including a backup photo record), and
- (3) it may be available for study by others with the members concurrence.

(1) In carrying out anthropological research, all FAS members should be sensitive to and respect the legitimate concerns of groups whose cultural histories are the subject of study.

(1) In planning archaeological excavation, members should make every reasonable effort to include representatives of the ethnic or Native American community whose cultural history is being investigated.

(2) Members shall give every consideration to requests of the affected ethnic or Native American community concerning the research. In particular, whenever requested, all human skeletal remains exhumed from mortuary contexts of recent date shall be reinterred following laboratory analysis. Reburial should be done with consideration for the requests of the affected ethnic or Native American community, federal laws, state statutes and local ordinances. No human skeletal remains should be bought, sold, traded or displayed in a culturally distasteful manner.

(g) In carrying out anthropological research, particularly archaeological survey or excavation, participating FAS members should obtain appropriate authorization and/or permits from the involved private land owners, or public land management agencies.

SECTION 3: Commercial dealings in archaeological materials often lead to site destruction and loss of contextual relationships and other important scientific data. The value the Florida Anthropological Society places on archaeological materials is scientific, not commercial.

(a) The Florida Anthropological Society supports and complies with the terms of the UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership of cultural properties as adopted by the General Conference, November 14, 1970, Paris.

(b) Members shall refrain from the collecting, hoarding, exchanging, buying, or selling of any illegally or illicitly obtained archaeological materials.

SECTION 4: Cooperation and communication among members and Chapters of the Florida Anthropological Society are to be encouraged.

(a) Members should freely exchange information concerning sites, collections, research undertaken, and other archaeological information.

(b) Members should always give appropriate credit for work done and information provided by others.

(c) Members should assist in the preparation of regional artifact type collections to be maintained by the Chapters and in the states master type collection.

SECTION 5: The Florida Anthropological Society exists within a larger community to which it has a responsibility.

(a) The use of the name of the Florida Anthropological Society, its individual Chapters and its members shall be used only in support of legal and ethical activities, and in ways authorized.

(b) In its presentations to the community, the scientific and educational aspects of archaeology and historic preservation shall be stressed rather than the sensational or monetary aspects. In addition, and more specifically, use of skeletal remains in interpretive displays will be done with sensitivity and understanding of the feelings for human dignity held by all people.