

SPS Ethics Agreement, Waiver, and Safety Guidelines

Name.....

Other Family on Membership

Waiver

I am interested in joining/continuing membership in the Southwest Paleontological Society (hereafter SPS). I understand that SPS is a non-profit corporation, organized only for social, educational, and scientific purposes. I am aware that the SPS organizes field trips and other activities in and around Arizona, including to pristine areas that have had little or no human contact. I am aware that such activities might include possible risks and dangers, including, but not limited to, travel in various terrains by automobile and other conveyance, and that this may subject me to forces of nature, weather, wildlife, insects or accidents in remote places without rapid means of evacuation or medical facilities. In consideration of the right to participate in such field or other activities arranged for me by the SPS, I have and do hereby assume all of the above risks and will hold the SPS and the Arizona Museum of Natural History (hereafter AzMNH), its directors, officers or agents, harmless from any and all responsibility, negligence, actions or suits of any kind or nature whatsoever for loss or damage to property or personal injuries sustained or occurring during any field or other activity of any nature, This shall serve as release and assumption of risk, for myself, my heirs, administrators, executors, and for all members of my family including minors who may be accompanying me. I agree that if I sue, or make any claims against the SPS and AzMNH, its directors, officers or agents in violation of this Waiver, I shall be liable for all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by SPS and AzMNH, in defending itself from such action or claim. This Waiver shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Arizona.

Waiver	I understand and agree to all of the above terms for any actions that may arise throughout the period of my membership with SPS.	DATED
Code of Ethics Agreement	I have read the Code of Ethics for the Southwest Paleontological Society (SPS) and agree to abide by the standards as stated.	DATED
Safety Agreement	As a responsible member of the Southwest Paleontological Society, I understand the purpose of the foregoing guidelines and will try to apply safe behavior in all SPS activities	DATED

Member
Signature.....
(Parent or guardian must also sign if under 21)

Member
Signature.....
(Parent or guardian must also sign if under 21)

Member
Signature.....
(Parent or guardian must also sign if under 21)

Code of Ethics

MISSION STATEMENT . .

The Southwest Paleontological Society (SPS) was formed for the purpose of collecting, documenting, and preserving fossil material within the Arizona region, through scientific excavations and educational activities, under the auspices of the AzMNH.

DECLARATION

The SPS has established this Code of Ethics to protect the science of paleontology, to serve as a guideline for acceptable behavior by members and guests of this organization, to preserve the reputation of SPS and the Museum it represents, and to assure the unquestioned quality and scientific value of the field and laboratory work conducted,

APPLICABILITY

This Code of Ethics applies only to paleontology related activities sponsored by the Southwest Paleontological Society and/or the AzMNH

BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS

1. All fossil material collected, plant and animal, will be relinquished to the trip leader for inspection and evaluation for the Museum collection.
2. No vertebrate fossil material is to be removed from any site or the laboratory for personal collections.
3. Invertebrate material can be retained for personal collections only with the approval of the trip leader, laboratory supervisor or the SPS Board of Directors.
4. All landscapes and plant and animal life will be treated with respect in an effort to reduce the environmental impact of the field activity.
5. Participants in any SPS activity will act in a safe and responsible manner to avoid compromising their own safety or that of others.
6. All children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. The adult will be solely responsible for managing the appropriate behavior of the child and insuring his/her safety. If the child's behavior becomes a safety concern or could result in endangerment to the integrity of the site, the adult and child may be asked to leave by the trip leader.
7. All participants will function under the guidance of a designated trip leader or laboratory supervisor and will strictly adhere to any rules set forth by that individual.
8. Participants will treat each other with respect and dignity, and will make every effort to avoid conflict if differences of opinion occur.

SITE EXPLOITATION

1. All fieldwork conducted on public lands will be done only with appropriate permits and licenses issued to the Mesa Southwest Museum and the Southwest Paleontological Society,
2. All fieldwork conducted on private lands will be done only with written consent of the landowner and all other tenants or lessees.
3. All collecting will be done in compliance with federal, state, municipal and tribal laws and regulations that apply to fossil collecting.

SITE PROTECTION

1. SPS members and participants in club activities will keep all site locations and excavation information confidential unless determined otherwise. All news releases and publications addressing excavation activity and/or outcomes must be approved in advance by the AzMNH and the SPS board of directors.
2. Upon completion of the site excavation, SPS will restore the site to its original condition in an effort to lessen the impact on the surrounding environment.

RECORD AND DATA STORAGE

1. All field records including field notes, site mappings, and other documentation, and all laboratory records will be kept in permanent storage by the AzMNH.

SPECIMEN CARE, CONSERVATION, AND STORAGE

1. Scientifically approved data collecting and mapping techniques will be employed at all SPS collecting sites,
2. New and approved laboratory methods will be utilized in the preparation and preservation of all fossil material.
3. All fossil material designated by the board of directors as having scientific value will become the property of the Mesa Southwest Museum and will be cataloged into the Museum collection.

Safety Guidelines

The Southwest Paleontological Society (SPS) operates under the auspices of the Mesa Southwest Museum (MSM). Since the SPS is a large group, performs strenuous outdoor physical activities, and can be involved in operating laboratory equipment, certain rules and guidelines may be necessary in order to insure everyone's safety. Such rules and guidelines include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Appropriate field dress is extremely important. Proper hiking shoes and clothes will be encouraged. Depending on weather and type of activity, associated items include gloves, raingear, hats, sunscreen, etc. There is always danger of heat related problems in hot weather. Learn to recognize the symptoms. Bring plenty of water on a trip.
2. Field work may involve the use of a hammer to remove rock or fossils. ALWAYS WEAR safety glasses or goggles when swinging a hammer OR if you are near someone who is. ALWAYS WEAR proper eye, respiratory, and hand protection when working with power abrasive tools and certain chemicals in laboratory activities such as fossil preparation,
3. Some outings may not be appropriate for small children and will be designated as such.
4. When your children are attending an outing, please insure their safety and appropriate behavior,
5. Stay within sight of the group during hiking, or be able to maintain communications with a fellow member at all times. .
6. Safety orientation and advice will be given by your trip supervisors or lab instructors. It is expected that members adhere to these accordingly.

Much of "Safety" is simply being cautious and above all, using common sense.

Along with personal safety, these guidelines are designed to help you enjoy the things you signed up for when you joined the club.