

Mission Statement

SiteWatch is a statewide volunteer program coordinated by the Historic Preservation Division and funded by public and private partnerships. It is founded upon the belief that preserving New Mexico's cultural heritage provides essential knowledge for the continued well-being and quality of life of our state and nation.

SiteWatch seeks to conserve and protect cultural properties by coordinating the efforts of New Mexico's citizens and landowners as they serve as stewards and preservation docents of nearby cultural resources.

Through monitoring and education, SiteWatch seeks to reduce the degradation of cultural treasures from vandalism, theft, and natural processes, and to help ensure our irreplaceable heritage can be appreciated by current and future generations of New Mexicans.

Prevention of cultural resource destruction due to acts of nature, theft, or vandalism

Utilization of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of New Mexico's citizens

Raising public awareness of the value of historic preservation through education and outreach

Promoting cooperation between communities, agencies, and individuals throughout the state

Organizing citizens into a group that makes a measurable difference in their own quality of life

Stewardship of an irreplaceable resource in perpetuity

Enhancing our knowledge of New Mexico's unique history

Historic Preservation Division Department of Cultural Affairs



New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs
Stuart Ashman, Secretary
Bergit Salazar, Deputy Secretary

Historic Preservation Division
Katherine Slick, Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Phil Young, SiteWatch Coordinator

Please direct questions about HPD/DCA activities and programs to:
NM SiteWatch Coordinator
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-827-6320
dca-hpdsitewatch@state.nm.us
or
Local Area SiteWatch Contact

Brochure design:
M. Patricia Lee
Albuquerque Archaeological Society
&
Tom Drake
Historic Preservation Division



www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

SiteWatch is a statewide volunteer program coordinated by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division in cooperation with federal, state, and local government land and cultural resource agencies, and private land owners.

**New Mexico
Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs**

Protecting the Land of Enchantment



New Mexico's citizens know that our state is special. Our people, land, and history come together to create a unique place that we are proud to call home and which others are excited to visit.

We also know that a large part of New Mexico's character is entwined with its old places and things — its cultural resources. Due to a combination of dry climate, low-population density, and unique history, New Mexico is blessed with thousands of cultural resources that remain in extraordinary condition: from one-of-a-kind archaeological sites to unique historic buildings to extensive National Historic Trails.

Unfortunately, New Mexico is not immune to the pressures of development, increased access, and fluctuating economies. Indeed, there has been real tension between our state's vision for the future and the conservation of its past. Compounding that tension is significant growth in the illegal market for prehistoric antiquities. Single Mimbres pottery vessels are sold for more money than many of our citizens make in a year. The result has been the willful destruction of our state's special heritage.

Our Work

Find it. Record it. Report it.

A SiteWatcher's duty is to monitor natural and human-caused impacts on cultural resources, and report to authorities trained to deal with such eventualities. SiteWatch volunteers are the vital leading edge of a much larger process that includes land managers, archaeologists, investigators, district attorneys, judges, and more.



In the Field

Stewards inspect a defaced petroglyph.

Selecting Stewards Duties and Responsibilities Signing up

New Mexico SiteWatch is open to anyone interested in preserving archaeological sites, historic buildings, and other cultural resources, and is willing to abide by the "Volunteer Code of Conduct".

Persons must complete an application, agree to a background check, sign an agreement and complete the "Introduction/Orientation to Site Stewardship" class to become a site steward. Acceptance and continuation in the program rests upon an individual's willingness to fulfill each element of the "Volunteer Code of Conduct". The SiteWatch coordinator, with the chapter coordinators and agency managers, appoints all new and permanent stewards, coordinators, and other program positions.

Persons convicted of a crime of theft or defacement of a cultural-resource are ineligible to volunteer for the program.

Manadatory Training

Introduction and Orientation to Site Stewardship

Successful completion of the introductory class and a site orientation are the prerequisites to participate in New Mexico SiteWatch. This basic training requirement can be waived at the discretion of the siteWatch coordinator, if:

- Applicant furnishes legitimate evidence of extensive field experience in cultural resources related activities in the area they will be volunteering.
- Applicant has served as a site steward in another approved site steward program (current or disbanded).
- Applicant has physical limitations that restrict program participation to administrative or other non-field duties.

Training

The basic training includes five hours of classroom instruction, and two-to-three hours of field orientation and training. The primary goals of the basic steward training are:

- Introduction to the skills and awareness necessary to be a successful site steward, and
- Familiarity with the history of the area or region where the site steward will be volunteering.

Upon successful completion of this class, new site stewards receive an "Interim I.D. card", issued by the Historic Preservation Division, as official proof the prerequisites have been met. It is suggested that even the most experienced site stewards attend "Introduction/Orientation to Site Stewardship". The class is current, informative, and we can learn from your experiences. Each class features presentations given by the state SiteWatch coordinator, land manager representatives, law enforcement, and professional archaeologists with diverse specialties.