

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE PRESERVES

Sonoma State University Preserves are committed to protecting cultural resources.



Why protect archaeological resources?

- They are non-renewable and irreplaceable.
- They provide valuable information that aids in uncovering the history of human occupation.
- To be respectful of the desires of Native American people and descendants of more recent land stewards.

What is protected?

- Archaeological and historical resources 50 years or older are protected by California State Law under the Public Resources, Health and Safety, and Penal codes. Violations are misdemeanors.

Sites and artifacts. What does that mean?

- A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing or ruined.
- Historic period artifacts include metal objects (such as cans and nails), whole or fragmentary glass bottles, and pottery.
- Prehistoric artifacts include chert and obsidian flaked-stone tools (arrow-heads), stone milling equipment (mortars, pestles, handstones), or stone flakes from tool manufacturing.

What is prohibited?

- Collection or disturbance of archaeological or historical resources without prior authorization.
- Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, collecting artifacts, digging, camping in non-designated areas, and driving or parking off-road.

Who must follow the policy?

- Everyone. This includes SSU staff, faculty, students, researchers, contractors, consultants, and visitors to the Preserve.

What to do if you find an artifact?

- **Leave it where you found it.**
- **Document it so we can find it later.**
Any details that you can provide would be helpful: photo, description and location (GPS coordinates, proximity to major landforms, watercourses, roads, etc.)
- **Contact Preserve staff.**
Write us at ssupreserves@sonoma.edu or call (707) 664-3416 and let us know what you found.