

Navigating the National NAGPRA Program Website



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Facilitating Respectful Return

Send us an email!
NAGPRA_info@nps.gov

Navigating the National NAGPRA Program Website



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National NAGPRA Program

[Home](#) [What We Do](#) [News](#) [Events](#)

The [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act \(NAGPRA\)](#) was enacted on November 16, 1990, to address the rights of lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations to Native American cultural items, including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. The Act assigned implementation responsibilities to the Secretary of the Interior, and staff support is provided by the National NAGPRA Program. The National NAGPRA Program is administered by the National Park Service, a bureau of the Department of the Interior.

The National Park Service has compliance obligations for parks, separate from the National NAGPRA Program. National NAGPRA is the nationwide program, the constituent groups of which are all Federal agencies, museums that receive Federal funds, Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, and the public.

Last updated: October 28, 2019



This webpage is about the National NAGPRA Program, within the National Park Service. It provides information about what we do.

www.nps.gov/nationalnagpra



[Home](#) [Getting Started](#) [Compliance](#) [Enforcement](#) [Law & Policy](#) [Review Committee](#) [Grants](#)

[NPS.gov](#) / [Home](#)

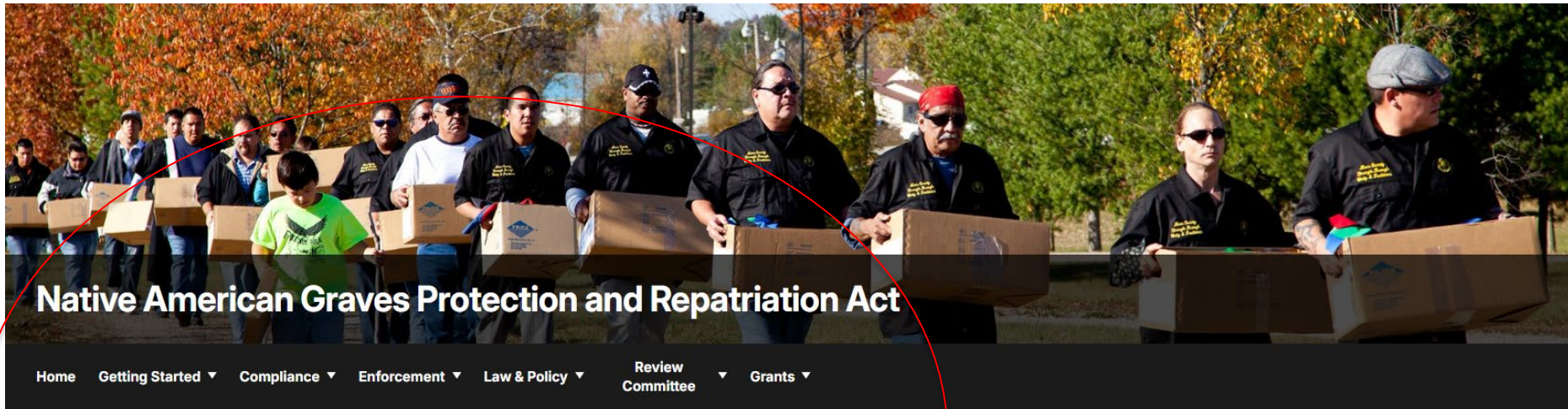
Facilitating Respectful Return

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).



This webpage is about the Act. It provides all the information necessary for compliance.

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NPS.gov / Home

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www.nps.gov/nagpra



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

- Home
- Getting Started ▾
- Compliance ▾
- Enforcement ▾
- Law & Policy ▾
- Review Committee ▾
- Grants ▾

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I Need Help With...

Frequently Asked Questions

Reference Library ▶

- Glossary
- Training
- Consultation Resources

Fa Return

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the identification and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

- Home
- Getting Started ▾
- Compliance ▾
- Enforcement ▾
- Law & Policy ▾
- Review Committee ▾
- Grants ▾

NPS.gov / Home

Facilitating

- Protection on Federal or Tribal Lands ▸
 - Repatriation of Human Remains ▸
 - Repatriation of Cultural Items ▸
 - Notices and Statements
- Identifying Cultural Affiliation
 - Requesting Repatriation

Since 1990, Federal law has been enacted to protect and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural significance. The National American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Congress passed in 1990, states that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also stated that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to achieve a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past (see 16 U.S.C. 470a-470f, 101-473).



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

[Home](#) [Getting Started](#) [Compliance](#) [Enforcement](#) [Law & Policy](#) [Review Committee](#) [Grants](#)

Civil Penalties

[NPS.gov](#) / [Home](#)

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Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

- Home
- Getting Started ▾
- Compliance ▾
- Enforcement ▾
- Law & Policy ▾
- Review Committee ▾
- Grants ▾

NPS.gov / Home

Facilitating Respectful

The Law

The Regulations

Policy ▶

Databases

Templates

Program Reports

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any and all Native Americans must be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

- Home
- Getting Started ▾
- Compliance ▾
- Enforcement ▾
- Law & Policy ▾
- Review Committee ▾
- Grants ▾

NPS.gov / Home

Facilitating Respectful Return

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the protection and return of human remains, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with the same respect and dignity as the remains of our fellow citizens." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to the lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).

- Members ▶
- Meetings
- Reports to Congress
- Requests & Recommendations ▶
 - Disposition Recommendations
 - Findings of Fact and Dispute Recommendations



Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

[Home](#) [Getting Started](#) [Compliance](#) [Enforcement](#) [Law & Policy](#) [Review Committee](#) [Grants](#)

[NPS.gov](#) / [Home](#)

Facilitating Respectful Return

Grant Opportunities ▶

Project Grants

Manage Your Award ▶

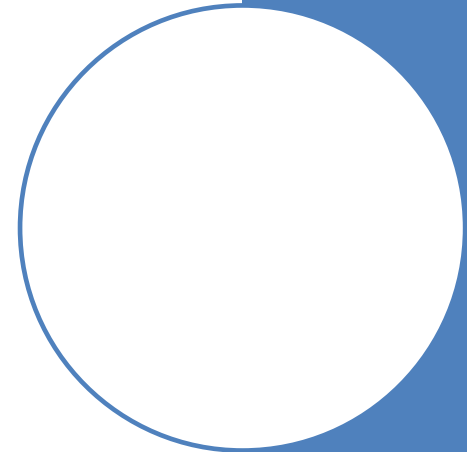
Repatriation Grants

Previous Grant Awards

Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the protection and return of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. By enacting NAGPRA, Congress recognized that human remains of any ancestry "must at all times be treated with dignity and respect." Congress also acknowledged that human remains and other cultural items removed from Federal or tribal lands belong, in the first instance, to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. With this law, Congress sought to encourage a continuing dialogue between museums and Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations and to promote a greater understanding between the groups while at the same time recognizing the important function museums serve in society by preserving the past. ([US Senate Report 101-473](#)).

Why Use the NAGPRA Website?

- Official policy for NAGPRA regulations, guidance, and notices
- Centralized data: Inventories, Summaries, Notices, Grants
- Tools for transparency, compliance, and consultation
- Supports collaboration



The NAGPRA Homepage

- Top menu

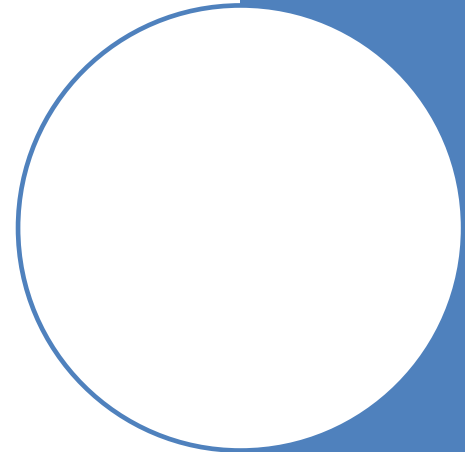
Main content categories and drop-down options

- Central area

Overview of the main content categories on the menu bar

Website Tips

- Bookmark direct pages. For example:
<https://www.nps.gov/nagpra/training>
<https://www.nps.gov/nagpra/consultation>
<https://www.nps.gov/nagpra/databases>
- Save PDF versions of the law and regulations for offline use.
- If you're ever lost, go back to the homepage and restart.



Key Takeaways

- Website is the hub for NAGPRA compliance
- Use menus and databases—not the search bar
- Grants and resources are available
- Bookmark and download key tools
- Ask for help when needed

Thank You!

- Questions? Contact nagpra_info@nps.gov
- Website: <https://www.nps.gov/nagpra>
- Stay engaged. Keep learning.