



## Saguaro National Park: Archeological Site Steward Program

### Introduction

Saguaro National Park (SNP) relies heavily on the generosity of local volunteers who assist the park with its day to day operations. During the fiscal year of 2015, SNP had 554 volunteers contribute 43,948 hours of volunteer service. The Cultural Resource Program at SNP “employs” part of this volunteer force as archeological site stewards. These volunteers are dedicated to protecting and preserving the cultural resources of the Park.

### The Volunteer Site Steward Program

Saguaro National Park in cooperation with the Arizona State Parks Volunteer Site Steward Program has for more than 20 years relied on volunteer site stewards to monitor the park’s archaeological sites to ensure these important and irreplaceable resources remain undisturbed, free from vandalism and looting (see Cultural Resource Brief: *Help Us Preserve Cultural Resources*).

At SNP a Site Steward’s primary role is to monitor archeological and historical sites and report disturbances such as looting/vandalism or any major environmental changes to the site to the park’s Cultural Resource manager and park Law Enforcement.

In 2014/2015 SNP had 40 volunteer archeological site stewards (who contributed 738 hours) patrolling the park and monitoring its cultural resources. Saguaro National Park would like to thank our volunteers for all the tireless good work.

### Arizona State Parks Volunteer Site Steward Program

This program is an organization of volunteers, sponsored by the public land managers of Arizona and includes state parks, National Forests and other government land managers, whose members are selected, trained and certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission. The chief objective of the State’s Site Stewards Program is to report to the land managers destruction or vandalism of prehistoric and historic archaeological and paleontological sites in Arizona through site monitoring. Many stewards are also active in public education and outreach activities.<sup>1</sup>



Volunteer training involves 10 hours of classroom instruction and fieldwork. The training sessions include antiquity laws, crime scene management, site and feature identification, and map reading.

In 2016, the Arizona Site Steward Program turns 30 years old!

Archeological site stewards may also:

- Help professional archeologists document or record archaeological sites in danger of vandalism, destruction or deterioration.
- Help professional archeologists document archaeological sites that have not been previously recorded.
- Help professional archaeologists monitor construction activities to discover if buried sites have been exposed.
- Help professional archeologists document private artifact collections.
- Assist professional archeologists in activities such as surveying, mapping and rock art recording.

<sup>1</sup> [http://azstateparks.com/volunteer/v\\_sitestewards.html](http://azstateparks.com/volunteer/v_sitestewards.html)

# Cultural Resource Brief

For more information contact:

Ronald Beckwith                      ph: (520) 733-5160  
Archeologist                          email: ronald\_beckwith@nps.gov  
Saguaro National Park  
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730