

# Midwest Archaeological Conference, Inc. (MAC)

## Ethical Principles

MAC members study, interpret, and preserve archaeological sites, artifacts, and associated records related to cultural groups occupying the American Midcontinent since the first humans began utilizing this region. We conduct our research for the benefit of present and future peoples. In conducting archaeology, we recognize we incur certain obligations to the archaeological record, descendant populations, colleagues, employers, and the public. These obligations are integral to professionalism. This document presents ethical principles for the practice of archaeology. All MAC members and others who actively participate in MAC-sponsored activities, shall support and follow these ethical principles. All archaeologists and those in allied fields are encouraged to adhere to these principles. MAC members are encouraged to join the Register of Professional Archaeologists and the MAC Board will use the RPA process for resolving ethics grievances whenever possible.

### **Principle 1**

Archaeologists have a duty to adhere to professional standards of ethics and practice in their research, teaching, collaboration with descendant populations, reporting, and interactions with the public.

### **Principle 2**

Archaeologists have a duty to encourage and support the long-term preservation and effective management of archaeological sites and collections for the benefit of humanity.

### **Principle 3**

Archaeologists have a duty to disseminate research results in an accessible, honest, and timely manner.

### **Principle 4**

Archaeologists have a duty to collect data accurately during investigations so that reliable data sets and site documentation are produced, and to see that these materials are appropriately curated for future generations.

### **Principle 5**

Archaeologists have a duty to respect the dignity and individual and collective rights of others and to not discriminate on the basis of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, place of birth, disability, marital status, veteran status, physical appearance, body size, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or any other protected category.

### **Principle 6**

Archaeologists shall not sell, buy, trade, or barter items from archaeological contexts. Archaeologists shall avoid assigning commercial value to artifacts except in circumstances where valuation is required for the purposes of appraisal, insurance, and donation to a repository, or when valuation is required as part of legal procedures.

### **Principle 7**

Archaeologists have a duty to encourage education about archaeology, strive to engage citizens and descendant communities in the research process, and publicly disseminate the major findings of their research to the extent compatible with resource protection and legal obligations.

*These principles are directly rooted in those of the Society for Historical Archaeology (<https://sha.org/about-us/ethics-statement/>); used and modified with permission. Last updated 12/21/2021.*