



*Preserving America's Heritage*

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## **ACHP Adopts Policy Statement on Archaeology and Heritage Tourism**

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) unanimously adopted a policy statement encouraging greater public understanding of and appropriate involvement with the nation's archaeological heritage resources at its August 15, 2008, business meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

The policy statement "Archaeology, Heritage Tourism, and Education" calls for the ACHP to "foster public understanding and appreciation of archaeological resources through heritage education programs and, where appropriate, heritage tourism initiatives while encouraging their conservation for future generations in a spirit of stewardship."

The policy statement and accompanying guidance were developed by the ACHP's Archaeology Task Force, chaired by expert member Julia A. King of St. Mary's College of Maryland, the first archaeologist appointed to membership on the ACHP since its creation. The policy is available at [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov).

The policy statement and its accompanying guidance set out the benefits of using archaeological sites for educational purposes while considering their management and sustainability needs, including resource protection considerations, public access, current and long-term threats, and maintenance requirements. The policy encourages balancing educational and tourism goals and objectives with privacy and preservation concerns through consultation among all involved and concerned parties. The policy urges that decisions about appropriate use of archaeological resources be made in consultation with persons, organizations, and entities that ascribe values and significance to them.

The policy and guidance are designed to assist ACHP staff, federal agency decision-makers, and other interested parties when, in the effort to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of the American past, they make decisions about incorporating archaeology and archaeological resources into heritage tourism projects and programs, as well as broader educational initiatives. The principles and guidance should also be useful to others involved in heritage development, including State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, state, tribal, and local governments, tourism interests, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and private individuals dealing with archaeological resources.

**ABOUT THE ACHP:** The ACHP, an independent federal agency, promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that impact historic properties. In addition, the ACHP has a key role in carrying out the Administration's Preserve America program. See [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) for more information.

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