



Volunteer Safety Agreement

PCRG designs its field projects to ensure the health and safety of all participants. PCRG project staff monitor weather conditions, participant's physical condition, and other factors and adjust field schedules, tasks, or methods as needed to maximize volunteer safety. However, PCRG is not currently able to provide liability insurance coverage for projects conducted on state, municipal, or private land. Federal agencies provide limited liability coverage for projects conducted on federal land.

Field archaeology involves physical labor outdoors, including movement in and around open excavation units and across uneven terrain. A variety of hand tools are required for many tasks and some of those tools have cutting edges. While archaeology is not particularly dangerous, the risk of injury is always present. Following these safety precautions can minimize, but not eliminate, the risk of accidents and injury while working. Please read the following information carefully before you take part in archaeological fieldwork.

1. Working outdoors exposes you to the elements. Wear appropriate clothing. For sunny days that includes long-sleeved shirts and brimmed hats. Regularly apply sunscreen with a high SPF level. Drink plenty of water or sports beverages to stay well hydrated. Drink fluids before you feel thirsty. **Bring enough water bottles for a full day of work** (recommended is at least one half gallon although more is always better). If you are not feeling well due to heat or overexertion, please let a staff member know and we will make arrangements for you to take a break. In cold or inclement weather bring appropriate clothing to keep you warm and dry, including adequate raingear and layers of clothing.
2. Sturdy footwear is a necessity. You are required to wear hiking boots on survey and thick-soled shoes for excavation. **No open-toed or open-backed shoes will be permitted**, except during waterscreening. Going barefoot is never an option.
3. Watch where you walk! Excavation units may be open across the site. Do not walk or stand directly adjacent to excavation units or sit or kneel on the edge of the units while excavating. The ground in those areas can become unstable and collapse. Be vigilant for the strings that delineate the excavation area.
4. Watch out for things like barbed wire and cactus. Be careful where you sit down or put your pack.
5. Watch out for rattlesnakes. If you see a snake, stop, look behind you, and then back up slowly. Do not antagonize the snake or any other wildlife. If a snake attempts to strike you, please let the field director or your crew chief know immediately. If you are bitten, we will seek immediate medical help.
6. Keep all equipment not in use neatly in an unobtrusive area. Trowels and shovels should always be placed with the point facing the ground. Trowels pointing upward may injure your feet. Stepping on a shovel with the blade upturned can cause the handle to level up toward you.
7. A first-aid kit will be available at the site. On survey, your crew chief will carry a small kit. **If you are injured—even if it appears to be a minor cut or scrape—please inform the staff and have the injury treated.**
8. You will be receiving instruction on how to use all of the equipment on site. If you have questions about the proper use of a piece of excavation equipment, please ask a staff member for clarification.
9. PCRG recommends that you have proper immunizations before excavating. Historical sites in particular yield metal debris that may be sharp and corroded and can transmit tetanus. Having an up-

to-date tetanus booster is strongly recommended for volunteers. While immunization against tetanus is good for a ten-year period, many archaeologists have booster shots every five years so the vaccine is most effective.

10. PCRG project participants ordinarily stay in a field camp. Many types of accidents are more likely to occur in camp in the evening than on site during the day. Potential dangers include campfires, kitchen knives and other equipment, and scalding water or food. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp and watch your footing at night.
11. Volunteers are required to fill out an emergency contact form and inform staff of any physical conditions that may impede their full participation in the program. This form also requests the disclosure of information that may be useful for staff to know in the case of an emergency, such as allergies or latent medical conditions you would want emergency personnel to be aware of in your treatment. ***The information provided will be kept in confidence and information sheets will be destroyed after the fieldwork concludes.***

For the safety of everyone on the project, the following items are prohibited:

1. Illegal drugs, including marijuana which is still illegal on federal lands
2. Pets
3. Guests, without prior approval of field staff
4. Radios or iPods can be used at camp or during lunch but not during work hours