

GOAT CAMP RUIN PROJECT COVID-19 EPIDEMIC TRANSMISSION PREVENTION PROTOCOL

7/24/2020

This protocol, loosely adapted from that of the Arizona Trail Association, is intended to direct the activities of volunteers working on the Goat Camp Ruin Project for the Arizona Archaeological Society during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and until such time as an effective vaccine and therapeutics are widely available and in use. Many of these procedures may be in place for months or years. As might be expected, this document is subject to change. The Goat Camp Project will conduct field and lab operations only when it is deemed lawful and prudent to do so, and will cooperate in full with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including temporary emergency orders.

COMMUNICATION

Refrain from participation in any Goat Camp Project activity if you have symptoms of, have recently tested positive for (within 3 weeks), or believe you may have COVID-19.

Read the CDC guidelines regarding underlying conditions that would put you at high risk of severe illness and determine if your participation in the activity will unduly jeopardize your safety.

Inform the Project Director if you develop symptoms (even mild ones) of COVID-19 within 14 days after a Goat Camp workday (within 24 hours of discovery).

GROUP SIZES

Until there is an effective and widely available vaccine, social distancing and a lowering of social density will still be our best approach to combating the pandemic. Since group size for Goat Camp field or work days generally averages about 10-12 people, this may not be an issue. As always, after a notice for a workday has gone out, it will be more important than ever to inform the Project Director whether or not you intend to participate. If it appears that group size will exceed a maximum of 10 volunteers and two field directors, adjustments may have to be made on a first-come/first served basis.

FACEMASKS

All participants in field or lab sessions must wear facemasks during the session, as per CDC recommendations. They must be worn even if you feel well and regardless of the results of any recent testing — you may be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic and there is no current guarantee that you cannot be re-infected even if you have had it and survived. Participants will provide their own facemasks. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed to participate.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Given the nature of archaeological field and lab work, this can be difficult to achieve at times and we may find ourselves having to adjust procedures over the course of the season.

The basic rule will be to maintain a 6 ft./2 m. distance from all other participants at all times. To achieve this in the field, participants may be assigned one to an excavation unit. If the size or configuration of the unit does not allow for that, pairs of excavators may be assigned to opposite sides of the unit or in some other configuration that will minimize face-to-face proximity.

Each excavator will screen their own backdirt. If they are uncomfortable identifying artifacts in the screen without assistance or have difficulty carrying or lifting the weight, another person may be asked to perform that task, but only one person should be operating a screen at a time.

The same distance rule will be applied during lunch and when hauling equipment up or down the trail.

If conditions have not ameliorated by next summer, distancing during lab work, washing and sorting artifacts, will follow the similar guidelines to keep work stations separate and minimize sharing of resources. Given the relatively small size of the lab, this will require limiting the number of participants in each session.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING HANDS

All participants are encouraged to wash and/or sanitize their hands per CDC guidelines prior to arrival at a work event and upon or shortly after leaving. Participants at lab sessions are required to do the same prior to and after using the labs bathroom facilities or lunch area.

USE AND CARE OF TOOLS

Participants are encouraged to bring and use their own tools but are not required to do so; communal tools will be provided as always. All participants must wear gloves when handling any communal tools or other resources, including buckets, screens, loppers, shovels, picks, trowels, tapes, levels, and clipboards. Participants will provide their own gloves.

Between fieldwork days the Project Director will wash all communal tool handles with bleach or alcohol wipes; between work sessions, these tools will be set aside and remain unused until the next session or will be subject to additional sanitization. The same procedures will be applied to tables, chairs, and other facilities and tools in the lab.

FOOD AND WATER HANDLING

As always, participants will be responsible for their own food, water, and other beverages. Food should not be shared among volunteers. Do not share water drinking bottles or larger jugs for refilling. If it is necessary to share water, sanitize any spigot, handle or other item that has come in contact with hands, mouths or bottles with bleach or alcohol wipes or other sanitization procedure.

TRANSPORTATION and LODGING

To maintain social distancing and sanitation, ride sharing and carpooling are discouraged for the duration of the outbreak. Transportation may be shared by individuals not practicing social distancing such as members of the same household, but otherwise all participants should arrive at the worksite on their own.

Similar considerations should be given regarding lodging, especially for those out-of-town participants who typically stay with other volunteers or private homes in Payson. In order to minimize exposure risk from overnight stays, work sessions will be limited to one day per weekend, at least for the Fall season.

CANCELLATION

The Project Director reserves the right to immediately and arbitrarily exclude participation by individuals, conclude daily operations, and cancel any and all work sessions if participants do not adhere to these rules. This protocol is designed to establish working conditions that will keep participants healthy and alive. If those conditions cannot be met or maintained because of the actions or attitudes of any individual participant(s) the project will be shut down. In a situation like this, each of us is responsible for the safety of all of us.

We will get through this one way or another!
Be well, stay safe, and
Thanks for volunteering with the Arizona Archaeological Society!