

# Ethical Standards of The Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology

Preamble:

The Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), founded in 1966, is a non-profit organization dedicated to archaeological scholarship in the American Northeast, including the Canadian Atlantic and Northeastern United States. Its purpose is to encourage and advance the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge derived from the practice of archaeology on historical sites. CNEHA is concerned with the entire historical time period from the beginnings of European exploration in the New World to the recent past and includes terrestrial and underwater archaeology. This document presents a statement of ethical principles to guide members of CNEHA.

Members of CNEHA agree to acknowledge and abide by the following principles:

- CNEHA maintains that the primary objective of all archaeological investigations and analyses is the attainment and dissemination of knowledge. We believe that it is the responsibility of archaeologists to disseminate the results of research in a timely manner to the professional communities and the general public through meetings, conferences, public outreach initiatives, publications, and other methods.
- All documentary research, historical site excavations, teaching and reporting should be conducted in accordance with accepted basic professional standards as outlined by the Register of Professional Archaeologists as well as relevant local, state, province, and federal law.
- CNEHA supports the long-term preservation and stewardship of archaeological sites and holds that archaeological data (project documentation, artifacts, and reports) should be maintained and curated for future study.
- CNEHA opposes the sale, purchase, trade, barter, or commodification of artifacts.
- CNEHA recognizes that we have special obligations to any indigenous or descendant community whose cultural legacy is the subject of historical archaeological investigations.
- CNEHA condemns discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and disability.
- CNEHA members have an obligation to treat everyone with dignity and respect and to adhere to zero tolerance against all forms of discrimination and harassment.