

For Immediate Release
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Florida Public Archaeology Network and Florida Park Service to Host Heritage Monitoring Scouts Training

*Learn how you can become a Citizen Scientist and help document and protect Florida's
archaeological resources*

Tallahassee, FL— On May 19th from 9am to 3pm the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) will be partnering with the Florida Park Service to offer a Heritage Monitoring Scouts workshop. The classroom portion of the workshop will take place at the Governor Martin House/Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research and the practical portion will be held in the afternoon at Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park. This workshop is free and open to anybody with an interest in archaeology, but advanced registration is required. To register individuals need to contact Barbara Clark, FPAN Regional Director, at BarbaraAClark@uwf.edu.

For several years now, the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) has been watching and learning about climate change and the threats it poses to cultural resources. The models predict that as many as 16,000 known historic resources will be impacted with just 1 meter of sea level rise. When you look at other issues like storm surge and erosion, the number of sites grows and the time to plan for impacts shrinks.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network has developed Heritage Monitoring Scouts, or HMS Florida, as a citizen science initiative to help collect data to guide site management and plans for impacts. HMS Florida is a statewide volunteer program that engages the public to monitor sites, especially those in threatened coastal environments, but also those inland that are at risk.

The program aims to gain information about these sites to help identify, manage and plan for threats.

Trained scouts will be assigned specific sites to monitor, which will include verifying basic site information like location and size as well as assessing impacts from natural to human causes. The information Scouts gather will be collected by FPAN in a user-friendly database and shared annually with Florida's Department of Historic Resources as well as with the public through an annual summit.

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For more information, press only:

Barbara Clark, FPAN Regional Director
850-933-5779
BarbaraAClark@uwf.edu
Fpan.us

For more information on Heritage Monitoring Scouts:

<https://fpan.us/projects/HMSflorida.php>

Photo caption/credit: HMS Workshop held in Pensacola, courtesy of Florida Public Archaeology Network

