



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2018

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Poll Finds Overwhelming Support for Archaeology in the US Funding and Preservation of Archaeological Sites Should Be a Priority

Washington, DC A majority of Americans overwhelmingly value the work of archaeologists, according to a [recent poll released by the Society for American Archaeology \(SAA\) and Ipsos](#), with a clear majority supporting increased protections and funding for archaeology.

The poll found that 93% of Americans say the work archaeologists do is important. More than half believe the US should increase funding for archaeology and enact stronger laws to protect sites and artifacts.

“We’re gratified but not surprised that Americans place a very high value on archaeology and the knowledge it gives us about our heritage,” said SAA President Susan Chandler. “Public support is crucial. Especially now, when archaeologists are seeing increased threats to US archaeological sites and artifacts from climate change, regulatory rollbacks, and looting.”

Poll respondents also strongly believe in archaeological education, with 87% saying that students should learn about archaeology in school at some point in their academic career. The poll shows a majority of Americans learn about archaeology at school and in museums, and finds that up to 60% of people familiar with archaeology who have not previously engaged in archaeological activities, such as visiting a site, would like to do so.

“Summer is a great time to visit archaeological sites,” Chandler said. “Many heritage sites have public archaeology days. Museums and historic sites also have special summer programs for visitors and children. Visiting a site really connects people to the work and to the past.”

More results of the American Perceptions of Archaeology Poll can be found on the SAA website at <http://saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Poll2018/tabid/1564/Default.aspx>.

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The Society for American Archaeology is an international organization dedicated to the research, interpretation, and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,100 members, the Society represents professional, student, and avocational archaeologists working in a variety of settings, including government agencies, colleges and universities, museums, and the private sector.