

Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA)

Social Media and Ethics Policy & Guidelines

The Mississippi Archaeological Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed for the purpose of uniting all persons interested in the archaeology of Mississippi; for the study and preservation of Indian prehistory and history; and for fostering and encouraging a constructive public attitude toward the archaeology of the state. It is further the purpose of this Association to encourage and participate in scientific investigation, study, and interpretation of prehistoric and historic artifacts and sites, and to publish and distribute the results of these investigations, particularly those relating to Mississippi (from Article II of the Constitution). The purposes and organizational function of the Chapters and the actions of all its members shall be and shall remain consistent with those of the Association as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws (Article V Sec. 3 of the By-Laws).

To ensure communications and actions are consistent with the mission statement of the MAA and in concordance with ethical, legal, and regulatory standards and archaeological laws, these guidelines have been enacted to help manage the use of social media and member conduct. Social media is any application (app) or platform that facilitates communication over the internet.

This social media and ethics policy will function as a living document in order to address changing networks, functionality, and online platforms and, as such, will be reviewed every two years by a committee to be appointed by the President of the MAA. At the time of the adoption of this policy, these guidelines apply to all social media platforms including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Reddit, etc. as well as all blogs and wikis and includes any post, meme, gif, picture, video, etc. shared to MAA affiliated accounts on these platforms. A condensed version of these guidelines should be posted to every MAA-affiliated social media account in an easily noticeable and accessible location.

Should clarification of any of the following policies and guidelines be necessary, contact a member of the MAA Executive Committee.

Guidelines when using an MAA social media account:

- Remember to have conversations rather than push agendas.
- Acknowledge and respect differences of opinion.
- Respectfully withdraw from discussions that go off topic or become profane.
- Posts containing hate speech, racist, demeaning or defamatory language, blatantly partisan political views, discriminatory, obscene, unlawful or otherwise objectionable statements, language or content are not allowed in any format on MAA social media accounts or other digital platforms.
- Avoid posting materials or comments that may be seen as harassment, inflammatory, offensive, inappropriate, threatening, or abusive.

Ethical practices and posting:

- Promote the use of proper archaeological techniques.
- Actively discourage looting of archaeological sites.
- Encourage site and artifact preservation as well as the importance of properly recording information.
- Do not attempt to buy, sell, or barter artifacts.
- Be aware that posting photographs or videos of archaeological sites may expose these locations to potential vandalism.
- Sharing of archaeological site locations should not occur except within the scope of the MAA's purpose statements (see Article II of the MAA Constitution).
- Never post content containing human skeletal remains, in any form or format.
- Only posts, photos, and videos containing legally and ethically collected artifacts may be shared on MAA social media platforms.
- Only like/follow pages or accounts of other archaeologically based or associated organizations.
- Be aware of what entities and/or practices the MAA may appear to endorse by one's actions.

Enforcement of Guidelines:

- The MAA Officers (Executive Committee and Local Chapters) reserve all rights relating to MAA social media accounts and may in their discretion add, remove, or modify any content or material posted on the accounts, deactivate accounts, accept or reject those who request to follow the accounts, and respond to any questions or comments addressed to the accounts.
- Violations/Multiple violations: Initial violations will result in a warning, unless the offending action requires a more serious response. Repeated misuse of social media platforms and/or ignoring these guidelines may result in removal from MAA membership rolls for a period of time decided upon by the Executive Committee as outlined in the MAA Constitution (Article VI Sec. 3: "The Executive Committee may, by three-quarters vote, remove from the membership rolls any member whose acts are contrary to the ideals, objects, and accepted standards of the Association or otherwise makes improper use of his/her membership"). Non-MAA members will be removed and blocked.
- "Trolls" and/or accounts containing little to no personal information found posting content for the purpose of instigating any MAA member, follower, or affiliate may be removed with or without warning.

Adopted January 25, 2021