

Photograph by Will Russell PhD,
RPA #55950241
Field school staff and students backfilling at Roadmap Village
pueblo, Sierra County, NM



RPA
Register of Professional Archaeologists

Certified Professionals

Registration is a voluntary act that recognizes an individual's commitment to be accountable for their behavior as a professional. Formal acknowledgment of the essential connection between personal responsibility and professional integrity across the discipline of archaeology is what sets RPAs and RAs apart.

The Register is a community of professional archaeologists. Our mission is to establish and adhere to standards and ethics that represent and adapt to the dynamic field of archaeology and to provide a resource for entities who rely on professional archaeology services.



*Photograph by Daan Meens MA, RPA #18081
A Metcalf staff member excavating a 1x1 meter unit in the Little Missouri National Grasslands, near Watford City, ND.*

Registrants are employed by:

- Engineering firms like AECOM International
- Environmental consultants such as Applied Earthworks Inc.
- State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Forest Services, Utilities, State and Federal government entities and many more

Key Goals

The Register of Professional Archaeologists' fundamental goal is the establishment and acceptance of universal ethical and professional standards in archaeology.

Commitment to Excellence

The Register of Professional Archaeologists provides a mechanism for the easy identification of RPAs and RAs. All Registrants are listed in an online directory that is continuously updated. Registrants may also identify themselves by displaying a registration certificate or choosing to use the abbreviation RPA after their names.

Professional Accountability

By joining the organization, an archaeologist recognizes their personal responsibility to colleagues, clients, and the public and agrees to be held accountable for their professional behavior. By formally acknowledging this relationship between personal actions and the wider discipline of archaeology, the act of registration holds a professional archaeologist to a set of high ethical standards that sets them apart from others involved with or interested in archaeology.

Contact Us

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Photograph by Bryon Schroeder PhD, RPA #55952252 mapping Spirit Eye Cave (41PS25) on the Mexican border in west Texas with Erika Blecha MA, RPA #38952064.

