

## PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Purpose: The Paleontological Society of Austin is a scientific, non-profit, community-based organization devoted to the study of paleontology. Our goals include:

- Educating the public.
- Advancing the state of the science by promoting interest in and knowledge of the science of paleontology
- Providing a network for the exchange of data between professionals and serious amateurs in the field.

The Society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes.

To assist the Society in meeting these goals, the following are the guidelines for the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

1. Members will conduct themselves in a manner that best represents the purpose of the Society.
2. Members will act responsibly and safely so as not to bring other members or themselves into harm or danger.
3. Members will respect private and public properties and will not collect without appropriate permission. Moreover, members will make a sincere effort to keep themselves informed of all laws, regulations and rules regarding collecting on private and public lands.
4. No member will use the name of the Society to gain access to lands, or scientific sites actively under study by paleontological professionals for personal gain or profit.
5. Members will not visit a site prior to a scheduled field trip with the intent or purpose to prevent fair collecting opportunities by the members of the Society.
6. Members will respect and cooperate with the field trip leader or designated authorities in collecting areas. Field trip leaders may ask that certain scientifically significant fossils, found on society field trips, be surrendered to the appropriate facilities. The determination of scientific significance will be the responsibility of the field trip leader.
7. Members should contact the appropriate professionals upon discovery of what the member considers to be scientifically significant fossils. This includes excavation, preparation, and documentation of the fossils in question. Members should consider donating such fossils to appropriate facilities.
8. Members will not barter, sell or purchase scientifically significant fossils unless it brings them into or keeps the fossils within a public trust. We acknowledge that any private trade or commerce in scientifically significant fossils deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens such that part of our natural heritage is consequently lost.
9. Membership of any person failing to uphold the purpose of the Society may be terminated upon recommendation of the Directors, followed by a simple majority vote of the members.