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# ARIZONA SITE STEWARD PROGRAM 2021 VOLUNTEER PRESERVATION AWARDS



“Volunteers dedicated to protecting and preserving cultural resources and the heritage of Arizona”

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## APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL AWARDS WINNER

# Carlos Ramirez

Arizona Parks and Trails  
Videographer

Arizona

Carlos volunteered his time and talent to create 9 exceptional short videos featuring Arizona parks, archaeological and historical sites and monuments. These videos not only highlight our state's amazing cultural resources, but also speak to Project Archaeology's archaeology-based curriculum for 3rd - 5th grade students.



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## APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL AWARDS WINNER

# Elliot Thompson

Assistant Regional  
Coordinator

Salt River Valley and Cave Creek Regions

Elliott joined the program in 2019 and has volunteered to help in nearly every major project since. Elliott is part of the Site Steward newsletter team, “The Watch” and helps to write stories on safety, profile interviews and write stories on historic figures connected with preservation. Elliott has been on the Site Steward Conference planning committee since 2020, and he was elected to the SSP Foundation Board in 2021. Elliott is receiving today’s award for his total commitment to the program and for being a great volunteer.



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## APPRECIATION AND SPECIAL AWARDS WINNER

### Mike Savala

Site Steward

Payson Region

Mike has earned the gratitude of site stewards and RCs with his willingness to collaborate and his knowledge of the sites in the Regions where he volunteers. Mike has been a Steward for five years and volunteers in 5 different Regions. During this time, he has volunteered almost 1,000 hours. He is a trusted and respected member of the Program.



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## ASSISTANT REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

# Kim Gilles

### Assistant Regional Coordinator

### Central Arizona and Tonopah Regions



Kim has been the behind-the-scenes person that an Assistant Regional Coordinator should be. She has lessened the burden of leadership and enhanced the performance of the RC when needed. In addition to monitoring 9 at-risk sites, Kim has been integral for the successful transition to the new Site Steward reporting portal for her Region. She volunteered early in the development of the database to learn how to handle administrative duties. She has helped dozens of Stewards with their reporting. Kim has been a key member of the 2021 Site Steward Conference planning committee. Her positive approach with an attention to detail continues to offer timely solutions for the volunteers in her Regions and for the entire program.



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## DWIGHT RIGGS MEMORIAL MENTORING AWARD

### Douglas Newton

#### Regional Coordinator

Central Arizona and Tonopah Regions

The Program depends on leaders like Doug, willing to take the time for ongoing mentoring and the education of volunteers. He is known for his willingness to maintain positive communication with his stewards and offer insight to the cultures associated with their sites. He shows interest in each steward personally and will check up if he hasn't heard from them in a while. He uses his knowledge of the Hohokam to mentor members and he makes you feel part of a larger organization. "Doug is a wonderful mentor."



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# LAND MANAGER OF THE YEAR

## Courtney Rose

Site Steward Land Manager

Tucson and San Pedro Regions

Courtney exhibits the attributes of an inclusive and respected Land Manager for Pima County - going above and beyond expectations in the areas of communication, follow up, training and collaboration. She values the role of the Site Steward Program, which is key to our success. She includes stewards as part of the broader conservation of natural and cultural areas across the county. Courtney works closely with site stewards, to follow up on vandalism reports ranging from getting fences repaired to major digging and screening on sites on the variety of Pima County sites. As one site steward put it, "Her professionalism and methods set a standard for Land Managers that place her above all the rest. I hope her peers are watching closely and taking notes because she is the Gold Standard for how to oversee a department."



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# LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

## Rob Vaitkus

### Special Agent

Arizona

Whether it is a concern on BLM lands, State lands, National Forest lands or private lands, Rob is the Site Steward Program's go-to law enforcement investigator for perceived and documented vandalism. He understands that these crimes have no boundaries. Rob leverages his knowledge of the communities, the volunteers and the archaeologists to target the complex challenges of his role. He is respected by Site Stewards and Land Managers across the State.





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# LAW ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

## Dusty Whiting

Site Steward

NE Arizona Region

Dusty has spent his entire career in Law Enforcement and is currently a Fire Investigator for White Mountain Apache Fire and Rescue. As a volunteer with the Site Steward Program, Dusty has been integral to the ongoing education and support of the Program, providing workshops on crime scene protocols as well as tracking.



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# OUTSTANDING NEW SITE STEWARD OF THE YEAR

## Doug Page

Regional Coordinator

AZ Strip West Region

Doug, a resident of Cedar City, Utah, has been with the Program since late 2019, and is already a trusted and respected member of the Program. When the region lost its long-time Regional Coordinator to retirement in 2020, Doug stepped up and took on the difficult task of managing the AZ Strip Region. In the summer of 2021, Doug once again took on additional duties by taking on the AZ Strip East Region. With nearly 400 sites covering roughly 4 million acres, Doug and his team of stewards are doing amazing preservation work in one of the most remote areas of the state. Doug is being recognized for his dedication, work ethic, crisis management and for taking full leadership of the program in both his Regions.



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# REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

## Jenny Anderson

### Regional Coordinator

Lake Havasu and Kingman Regions

Jenny joined the Program in April 2002 and has been the RC for Lake Havasu since 2008. Recently, she took on the leadership duties for the Kingman Region. Jenny carried on most of this last year while enduring failed knee replacement surgeries, many hospital visits and all the physical therapy necessary for the successful end of this painful period in her life. Throughout this time, Jenny continued to monitor sites and recently enlisted six new Stewards and provided classroom and field training. She is a highly respected member of the Program and is also recognized outside the Program as the champion of cultural resources for the Lake Havasu area.



## REGIONAL SUPPORT STEWARD OF THE YEAR

# Judy Stoycheff

Assistant Regional  
Coordinator

Prescott Region

Judy is a long-standing member and has provided a wide-range of support and leadership roles since joining the Program in 1993. Currently an Assistant Regional Coordinator, she was awarded the Regional Coordinator of the Year Award in 2005. Her contributions to the Program are amazing! Judy has put together a program to take 5th through 12th grade students on visits to select sites. Over the years, Judy has enlightened hundreds of visitor of little known history of this area. She is a great asset to the SSP.



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## SHELLY RASMUSSEN VOLUNTEER HOURS AWARD

### Jim Herrewig

Site Steward

Sierra Vista Region

Jim is a 29-year veteran of the Site Steward Program and is the heart and soul of the Sierra Vista Region. Jim volunteered 435 hours since last year--making him the leader in volunteer hours submitted in the database for a Steward. Incredibly, Jim put over 5,000 miles on his vehicle to monitor sites since 2020. Jim absolutely loves being a Steward and hiking to sites with his trusted dog.



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## SITE STEWARD PROGRAM TEAM AWARD

### AGUA FRIA REGION LEADERSHIP TEAM

# Michael Hoogendyk

Regional Coordinator

An 18 month team effort resulted in the completion of the Region's Site Kits, including confirmed UTM's, site maps and photos for every site. The team also established a communication tool that generates emails and text messages to all Site Stewards in the region in the event of emergencies such as flash floods, active vandalism, wild fires or lost individuals. This team has demonstrated new standards for projects and program enhancements.



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SITE STEWARD  
PROGRAM TEAM AWARD

AGUA FRIA REGION  
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Liz Wescott

Assistant Regional  
Coordinator

Trudy Mertens

Assistant Regional  
Coordinator



SITE STEWARD  
PROGRAM TEAM AWARD

AGUA FRIA REGION  
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Clinton

Assistant Regional  
Coordinator

Mike Nushawg

Site Steward





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# THIEF OF TIME AWARD

## Larry Bourne and Foster Knutson

Site Steward

Tucson and San Pedro Regions

Larry and Foster have been partners for several years and monitor sites within the Tucson and San Pedro Regions. RCs can always count on these two to be available to handle high risk areas. Concise and detailed vandalism reports and associated photos submitted by this team has led to the apprehension of alleged vandals. On May 5, 2021, Larry and Foster were visiting Rail X site -a heavily damaged site area due to mountain bikers and OHV users -and discovered a couple of men stealing artifacts. The information they obtained about these individuals was sent to Rob Vaitkus, a BLM officer who was able to ID them allowing the County Attorney's Office to charge the individuals with theft and trespassing.



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# OUTSTANDING SITE STEWARDSHIP OF THE YEAR Barbara Marcel

Assistant Regional Coordinator  
Prescott Region

Barbara joined the Program in April 2008 and over the past year she has been instrumental in the transition to our new database reporting portal. Barbara has volunteered more than 125 operational hours - identifying enhancements, updating records and she has trained over 50 volunteers on how to use the system. Barbara is the Site Steward's "go-to" person for troubleshooting and support of the new database system. Without Barbara's support the database transition would have taken twice the hours required.





Luke Air Force Base



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