



MESA PRIETA PETROGLYPH PROJECT

PO Box 407, Velarde, New Mexico 87582

May 2024 Archaeological Society of New Mexico Update

Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project (MPPP) continues to work diligently on the protection and preservation of archaeological features of the Mesa Prieta region, *Tsikwaye*. We estimate there are over 100,000 petroglyphs at the Mesa that expand a vast timeline from Archaic periods through Spanish contact and 20th century influences. In addition to ancestral petroglyphs, Mesa Prieta includes numerous archaeological features such as grid gardens and historic trails. There are three primary components that MPPP continues to focus on which include recording of petroglyphs, education outreach to K-12 schools and communities, and the promotion of heritage stewardship at the site.

We are excited to be celebrating our 25th anniversary as a nonprofit in 2024. To commemorate this historical year, we have a series of programming activities that include themed tours, an exhibit at the Española Bond House (set to open in July) and a two-day Symposium to be held at Northern New Mexico College September 13 and 14th: *25 Years on the Rocks: Stories of Long Ago Told*. We invite student alumni, educators, volunteers, and partner organizations to attend who have been connected with the project over the last twenty-five years.

This year, MPPP was awarded a \$40k Outdoor Equity Grant from the New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division for our Summer Youth Program. Funds will be used to support programming, stipends, and transportation costs. The summer program is integral to MPPP's mission as we work with students to record critical archaeological features on the site. Students spend time learning basic mapping skills and further expand their understandings on local histories. We are currently recruiting a new summer youth cohort that will take place in June. Selected participants are eligible to receive dual credit from Northern New Mexico College and a small stipend for their time. In addition, MPPP has received grants from the Santa Fe Community Foundation to support our ongoing 25th anniversary events.

In collaboration with The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC), MPPP was featured in [The Living Landscape of Mesa Prieta](#), that introduces two petroglyph preserves that have been added to TAC's preservation efforts on Mesa Prieta. These recent acquisitions contain significant cultural sites, such as rock shelters and hundreds of petroglyphs, that are now being protected. Thanks to site stewards, local landowners, and the recording team of MPPP, The Archaeological Conservancy was able to advocate for the protection of these sites and pursue acquisition.

To build upon this critical work in education, preservation, and stewardship, MPPP continues to seek funding to support initiatives. We welcome the opportunity to strategically partner with aligned organizations and foundations that are vested in the protection of archaeological sites and educational outreach to communities. Please visit [Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project](#) for updates and to sign up for our newsletter. Contact: Dr. Matthew Martinez, director@mesaprietapetroglyphs.org or 505-699-2705.