



FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY *of* WEST FLORIDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mike Thomin
Florida Public Archaeology Network
University of West Florida
mthomin@uwf.edu
850.595.0050 ext. 105

Heritage Monitoring Scouts (HMS Florida) Training ***New public archaeology program trains citizen scientists how to monitor cultural sites threatened by erosion, storm surge, and sea level rise.***

PENSACOLA— January 18, 2018- The Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) and City of Mary Esther are hosting a Heritage Monitoring Scouts (HMS Florida) training on February 28th, 2018, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP with Nicole Grinnan at 850.595.0050 ext. 103 or at ngrinnan@uwf.edu to save your spot. This workshop is most appropriate for ages 12+.

HMS Florida is a public engagement program focused on tracking changes to archaeological sites at risk, particularly those impacted by climate change in the form of erosion and sea level rise. This fun workshop teaches citizens how to become a Heritage Monitoring Scout. We will talk about threats to archaeological sites, how to identify some common site types and artifacts, and the best way to record and monitor sites. This workshop includes presentations in the morning at the Mary Esther Public Library, a break for lunch, and some site monitoring practice in the afternoon at the nearby Jesse Rogers Memorial Cemetery in Mary Esther, Florida.

As of 2013, Florida identified 16,015 historical resources to be impacted by a 1-meter rise in sea level, with numbers reaching 34,786 impacted sites given a 2-meter rise scenario. Of these, 2,908 are archaeological sites (or 3,985 in the 2-meter scenario). Additionally, 630 historic cemeteries are estimated to be at risk from storm surge. More information is needed to identify and manage the threat of erosion on archaeological sites.

For more information on the Heritage Monitoring Scouts program, visit fpan.us/HMSflorida

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