

CASSP

Annual Report for 2025

In 2025, the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) conducted one online workshop and two in-field workshops, provided three CASSP Heritage Hikes, and participated in the SCA Annual Meeting in Burlingame.

Volunteer site stewardship training workshops

CASSP workshops take two days. The first part consists of a free, six hour, online seminar about artifacts and features, laws that protect them, site stewardship, how to visit sites, and special topics from guest speakers. Anyone can attend, regardless of age or training in California archaeology. The second part is a field trip to observe and record conditions at several archaeological or historical sites. Only people who previously attended the seminar, and sign a confidentiality agreement to not reveal sensitive site information, and pay a \$25 fee can participate in the field trip.

Since 1999, we've held more than 100 CASSP workshops all over California to train volunteer site stewards from the public. Almost all of the volunteers have worked for State and Federal land management agencies, where they are supervised by the agency archaeologist. The CASSP workshops involve local tribes, and some tribes have developed their own teams of site stewards which are led by their cultural heritage departments.

CASSP Heritage Hikes

CASSP Heritage Hikes are free, public events in experiential learning. In a four hour period, experts lead a small group of people (less than 25) to a known archaeological or historical site to view features from the past and learn about the people who created them. During the hike, we talk about the importance of cultural resources and why they should be preserved. We also tell participants how they can be active in CASSP.

Events in 2025

CASSP Heritage Hike on January 11

Eighteen people participated in the CASSP Heritage Hike at Corn Spring, a public campground east of Palm Springs. Beth and Chris Padon and Wanda Raschkow organized the event. Wanda and CASSP site stewards Britt Wilson and Maria Puente provided overviews of the history and prehistory of the site. Then we spent several hours exploring dozens and dozens of petroglyph

images, with examples of Archaic Abstract and Colorado Desert Representational. Wanda discussed the differences between images found at Corn Spring and those elsewhere in the Colorado Desert.

CASSP field trip (workshop part 2) on February 8

We held the second part of a CASSP workshop with a field trip at the BLM Palm Springs Field Office and the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, where we visited a prehistoric site and an historic site. Bryce Danner, BLM archaeologist and Dani Ortiz, BLM manager of the Monument, hosted the day. There were 23 volunteers, 5 BLM personnel, and 6 USFS San Jacinto Ranger District personnel. Volunteers included a high school student and her mother, a college student and her grandmother, retired teachers, certified naturalists, college graduates, former State Park employees, and Friends of the Mountain Desert volunteers. After introductions and paperwork, we walked to an archaeological site that contained many artifacts. We stopped for lunch before returning to the field to visit an historic site. Then we walked down the road about a hundred yards to take our group photo in the San Jacinto Mountains.

SCA Annual Meeting in Burlingame on March 13–15

We thank the SCA for supporting the CASSP committee meeting and a symposium on community involvement in archaeology



At the February field trip, BLM archaeologist Bryce Danner (on right with blue shirt) gives background information before entering the site area.

during the SCA Annual Meeting in Burlingame. Many CASSP archaeologists and volunteers attended, and visited with old friends and met new ones at the CASSP table in the book room.

CASSP Heritage Hike at SCA Southern Data Share Meeting

On October 18, CASSP participated in the Arch in the Park event organized by the San Diego County Archaeological Society at the Rancho Peñesquitos Adobe. It attracted hundreds of people, and many stayed for the SCA Southern Data Sharing Meeting in the afternoon. On October 19, CASSP program coordinator Michael DeGiovine led fifteen people on a CASSP Heritage Hike to the Old Mission Dam on the San Diego River in the Mission Trails Regional Park. Construction of this dam started in 1803 to create one of the first reservoirs in California.

CASSP Heritage Hike at SCA Northern Data Share Meeting

On October 26, the day after the Northern Data Sharing Meeting, we toured the Wakamatsu Farm near Coloma, where 22 members of samurai families established the first Japanese colony in America in 1869. This National Register site is administered by the American River Conservancy (ARC). ARC docents Cathy Ciofalo (who also volunteers as a site steward), Herb Tanimoto, Berry and Joan Brooks, and Cathy Mueller were our guides.

CASSP seminar (workshop part 1), on November 22

Ten speakers and 45 potential volunteers participated in this online seminar. Featured speakers included Associate State Archaeologist Jairo Avila from California State Parks, Heritage Program Manager Esther Morgan from the Forest Service, maritime archaeologist Eric Rodriguez from San Diego, and archaeologist David Whitley from Tehachapi.

CASSP field trip (workshop part 2), on December 13

This field trip was a full day for our 13 participants. It began at the Tehachapi Museum, which opened early for us to view the exhibits, including the new Kawaiisu basketry exhibit. Then we carpooled to Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park in the foothills of the southern Sierras. The volunteers visited two sites and practiced filling out the site visit forms about site conditions. State Parks archaeologist Jairo Avila described site features and described current research about mineral use in pictographs. We ate lunch in the field and took our group photo at the end of the trail before returning to Tehachapi.

Web site and Facebook

The CASSP web site, www.cassp.org, provides information about the program, volunteer training workshops, CASSP events, and donations. On Facebook, search for CASSP or go to www.facebook.com/CaArchSiteStewardProgram.

Administration

Nonprofit corporation

Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship (PASS) promotes preservation of our nation's cultural resources from damage, loss, or misuse through public site stewardship and other educational activities. PASS has provided online national conferences on public archaeology and organizes online monthly meetings of site stewardship program archaeologists, administrators and volunteers from across the country. CASSP is the only site stewardship program that we provide.

Financial summary

Rounded to the closest hundred, PASS generated \$13,200 in revenue in 2025 from service contracts with public agencies and fees from workshop participants (\$5,100) and donations (\$8,100). Expenses were \$11,800, divided between administration (\$5,000), program activities (\$6,800), and fundraising (less than \$100). The largest single expense was payroll, which totaled about \$5,000 and was split between administration (\$2,200) and program activities (\$2,800). Revenues and expenses in 2025 were about the same as in 2024.

All of our 2025 revenue came from sources in California.

SemperNet LLC Technology & Security Solutions made a large donation of matching grants for two workshops. SemperNet LLC provides end-to-end solutions across IT, Cybersecurity, GIS, UAV operations, and Physical Security Services. About ninety five percent of the expenditures went to CASSP and five percent to national activities. Donations to PASS can be made at the CASSP web site. We thank the SCA for its support.

by Beth and Chris Padon, updated March 4, 2026



California State Parks Great Basin District hosted the CASSP field trip for these new site stewards at Tomo-Kahni State Historic Park.