

JVP Ethics Declaration

(to be uploaded as 'Checklist' along with other manuscript files)

By submitting a manuscript to the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology I (we) declare to have read, I (we) agree, and I (we) comply with the following criteria set out within the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology's Bylaws on Ethics. **Please sign and date the bottom of this document and upload it along with your cover letter and manuscript files.**

Scientific misconduct

SVP is committed to promoting a culture of research and publication integrity. We will not engage in or tolerate scientific misconduct.

Scientific misconduct includes, but is not exclusive to:

1. Fabrication of data or results and recording or reporting them.
2. Falsification of results by manipulation of research materials, equipment or processes, changing or omitting data or results, and reporting such that the research is not accurately represented.
3. Plagiarism by appropriating another's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Harassment, discrimination, bullying, or coercive manipulation.

Fossil Collection

Mandatory standards

- We will conduct our field collection with all necessary permissions and permits, and abide by all relevant local, national and international laws and ordinances, rules, and regulations.
- When undertaking fieldwork, we will strive to ensure the personal health, safety, and well-being of all participants, while upholding the highest standards of interpersonal conduct and scientific rigor.
- We will remember that, intentionally or unintentionally, we act as ambassadors for our profession, and will conduct ourselves accordingly at all times.

Aspirational standards

- When we conduct sampling activities, we will preserve the Earth's paleontological, geological and biological heritage.
- We will work in concert with landowners, land managers, local communities when appropriate, and repositories to ensure that they are fully informed of our plans.
- We will record and preserve accurate and complete field notes.

Collections Management

Mandatory standards

- Specimens and accompanying field data will be deposited in collections where they will be stored in perpetuity as soon as is practical.

Aspirational standards

- We will document our collection, preparation, and conservation methods to the greatest extent practical, including any materials applied to specimens and their surrounding matrix.
- Fossil preparation should be completed by appropriately trained individuals or under the supervision of such individuals.
- Those members responsible for setting museum policy should work to advocate for policies that are consistent with a spirit of access, reproducibility, and research dissemination.

Working with specimens

Mandatory standards

- When working with specimens, we will treat all collections with respect, and will follow all relevant institutional policies for their preservation and use.

Aspirational standards

- Any alteration to specimens (including preparation) will only be made when necessary and with appropriate permissions.
- Imaging or molding and casting will only be done with permission from the repository.

Paleontological research

Mandatory standards

- We will obey all local, national and international laws pertaining to the specimens on which we work.
- We will not knowingly carry out research work on specimens that have been illegally exported from their country of origin.
- We will only carry out research work and publish on fossil vertebrate specimens that are deposited in or immediately destined for collections which are committed to storing the specimens and associated data where they will be stored in perpetuity.
- We will make specimens and our raw data that underlie our publications freely available to other researchers within legal and institutional policies.
- We will uphold relevant laws around access to locality data.

Aspirational standards

- We will work to educate ourselves on the relevant legal and human rights issues related to the fossils on which we work and the countries in which we work.
- We will not knowingly work on specimens where there is reason to suspect that their sale or collection funds ongoing conflict or human rights abuses.
- Research embargoes will be used sparingly and have specific provisions to ensure timely access to fossil material by other researchers.

- We will allow access, by qualified researchers, to specimens in our care and will not prevent access to specimens by other researchers once we have had a reasonable amount of time to work on them ourselves, publishing our research in a timely manner.

Research dissemination and public engagement

Mandatory standards

- When engaging with the press, we will represent our research accurately.
- We will not intentionally reveal the results of embargoed research to other researchers or to the general public while an embargo is active.
- We will not reveal the results of the unpublished work of others to colleagues or the general public unless we have the explicit permission of the relevant author(s)/principal investigator(s).

Aspirational standards

- We will strive for the highest standards of intellectual honesty.
- We will strive to conduct research that is replicable and reproducible, producing research records that are clear, transparent, and free from bias.
- We will strive for the highest quality research, and we will strive to avoid shortcuts in the research process.
- We will make every effort to give full credit to those who have made scientific contributions to our work, while not requesting or expecting authorship for minimal intellectual contributions.
- We will strive to provide research results, when requested, to the institutions that care for the specimens we research, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders in our research in a timely manner.
- When asked to comment on scientific matters for news media, we will be transparent about our areas of expertise.
- We will strive to ensure diverse voices are represented in media coverage of our work.
- We will peer-review and edit each other's research (including manuscripts, grants, and other outputs) work in an objective, fair, timely, and thorough way. When peer reviewing, we will be transparent about the limitations of our knowledge as a reviewer, to the best of our ability. We will disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- We will strive to correctly acknowledge all funders and access providers for our work.

I (we) hereby affirm that the work presented in this manuscript adheres to the ethical standards of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Failure to comply with these standards may justify rejection of the manuscript at any point after submission, at the discretion of the Editors.

Corresponding author signature (electronic acceptable): _____

Corresponding author printed name: _____

Date: _____