



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center presents

Dragoon Springs Stage Station & Cochise-Howard Treaty Sites Tour

Guided by Archaeologist **Deni J. Seymour**

& Historian **William Mapoles**

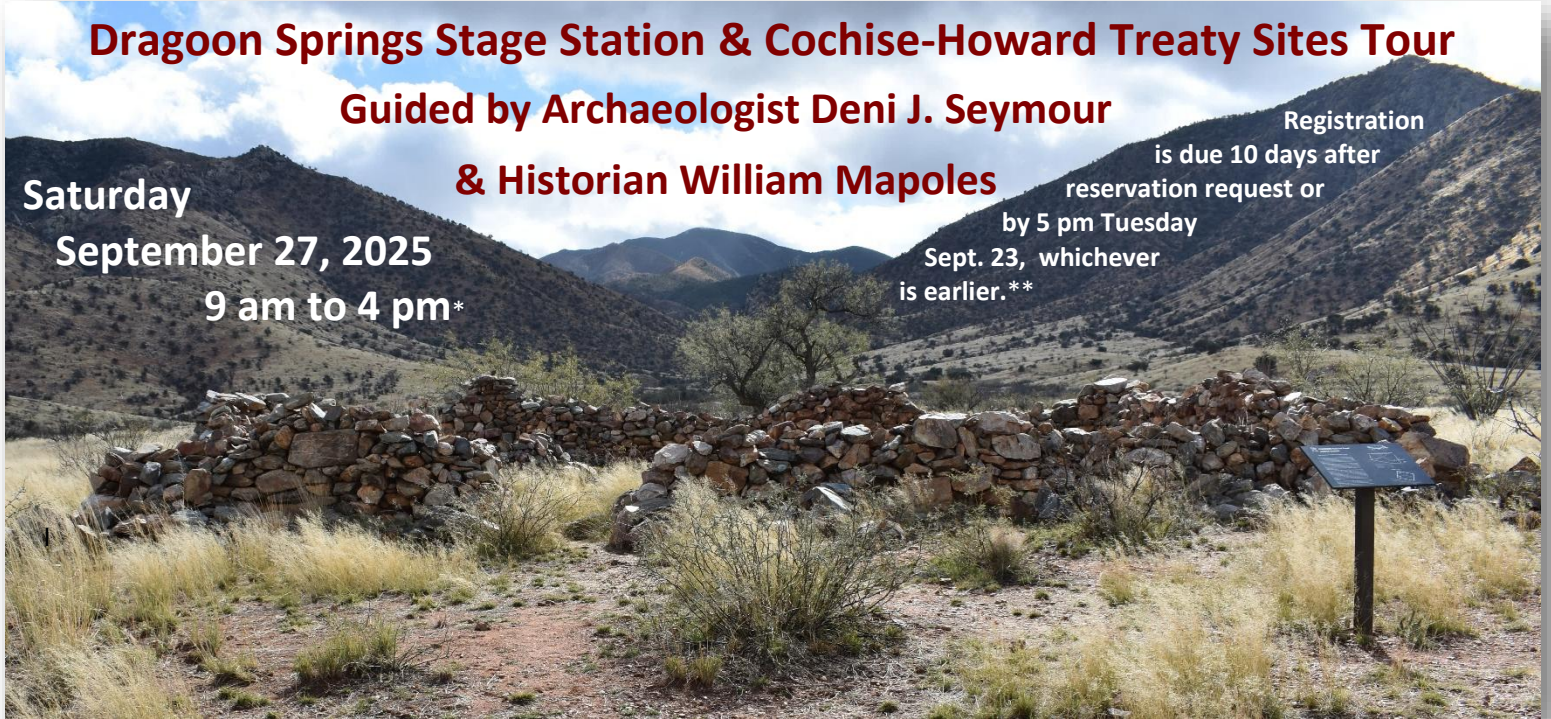
Saturday

September 27, 2025

9 am to 4 pm*

Registration is due 10 days after reservation request or by 5 pm Tuesday

Sept. 23, whichever is earlier.**



Above: Dragoon Springs Stage Station ruins (Photo by Allen Dart)

Below: Apache wickiup rings at Cochise-Howard Treaty site (Photo by Deni Seymour)

The Dragoon Springs Stage Station site, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, served the Jackass and Butterfield Overland mail companies during the 1850s and 1860s, and is where mail company workers and Civil War soldiers were killed and buried in different years. Debate surrounding the burials will be discussed by tour leaders, including a new interpretation based on reassessment of the historical and archaeological data.

The Cochise-Howard Treaty site is where Brigadier General Oliver Otis Howard met with the Apache leader Cochise in October 1872 to negotiate the surrender and relocation of Cochise's Chokonon Apache band, the "most troublesome Apache group." Using photographs of unique boulder formations, written historical descriptions of the landscape, and archaeological evidence, Dr. Seymour rediscovered the place of that meeting, which culminated in a peace treaty between Cochise's band and the U.S. government.

Our guides' detailed accounts of historical sources and archaeological investigations will enrich tour participants' understandings of these cultural heritage sites.

TOUR GUIDES

Deni Seymour, PhD is a professional archaeologist and award-winning author of seven books and over 120 professional journal articles. In addition to reporting the Cochise-Howard Treaty site, other sites she has discovered include San Geronimo III (Suya) and the Chichilticale campsite associated with the 1539-1542 Coronado Expedition, more than a hundred Sobaipuri O'odham villages, including those visited by Father Kino in the 1690s (such as the original Chukshon, Tucson's namesake), 1775-1776 Anza Trail encampments, and the site where Apache headman Juh ambushed U.S. Army Lieutenant Howard B. Cushing in 1871. She has excavated at the Spanish colonial period San Geronimo III *villa* (town) site, Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate, Presidio de Tubac, and several Indigenous sites.

William (Bill) Mapoles is a historian especially knowledgeable about historical firearms as well as the Dragoon Springs Stage Station site and its colorful history. Bill has performed extensive military and southwestern historical research including the actual locations of graves of the Butterfield Overland Co. workers who were murdered at Dragoon Springs on September 9, 1858.



* Contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center for reservations: 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org. See information on next page.

** See next page for donation information.

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

COST AND PAYMENT POLICY: Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis. Full payment of the donation is due with tour registration. A portion of the tour donation will be a tax-deductible contribution to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center in an amount to be determined based on tour expenses compared to revenues after all expenses have been paid. Any entrance fee savings from passes, permits, memberships, etc., become part of the donation to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center. We welcome singles, couples, and groups.

DONATION AMOUNT: Donations are requested to help cover Old Pueblo's tour expenses and support our education programs in archaeology and traditional cultures. We normally request a \$55 donation per participant (\$45 for Old Pueblo or S'edav Va'aki Museum Foundation members) for each full-day tour. However, because the sites we'll visit are on National Forest land, Old Pueblo would have to obtain a federal special-use permit and limit the tour to 12 people if we were to specify a donation amount, so we ask each person going on the tour to provide a generous donation when registering.

CANCELATIONS less than seven days prior to departure date are not refundable. Cancellation notice must be received in writing or via email and will be effective as of the date received. Cancellations after final payment date/time will result in forfeiture of all money paid. No refund will be made for leaving a program in progress. Trip insurance is highly recommended. Old Pueblo reserves the right to cancel programs while in progress and to take action as needed on an individual or group basis, when in Old Pueblo's sole opinion the health, safety, or well-being of participants requires such action. The tour itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, but participants will be notified of significant changes in advance if the change is under the control of Old Pueblo.

TRANSPORTATION: Registrants are responsible for their own transportation. High-clearance vehicles are recommended and carpooling is encouraged – See below.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS: No lodging or meals are included in the tour. Each participant needs to bring a lunch, at least one quart of water, and other beverages as desired. Snack foods are also recommended. Please do not bring alcoholic beverages.

DEPARTURE: The tour will meet at 9 am on the south side of Interstate-10 Exit 312 (Sybil Road) about 9 miles east of Benson, Arizona. Those wishing to carpool with others can park vehicles at the departure location at their own risk. Valuables should not be left in parked cars. Return time to the meeting place is estimated at 4 pm but may be later considering how fast people can walk and regroup at the various stops and the possibility that vehicle problems can occur.

ACCESSIBILITY: The sites to be visited are accessible via unimproved roads for which high-clearance vehicles are recommended, so registrants are advised to carpool and share fuel costs with fellow registrants who can take high-clearance vehicles all the way to the sites. Participants must walk up to 1,000 ft to get to the Dragoon Springs site and ¼-mile over undulating desert terrain to get to the Cochise-Howard Treaty site from their respective parking areas. Tour leaders will allow plenty of time for participants who cannot walk quickly. If you have difficulty walking over rugged terrain you may have to view one or both sites from a distance. Participants can walk/hike as much or as little as they wish.

HEALTH ADVISORIES: Bring and wear a hat that protects the back of your neck and your ears. Bring and wear sunscreen lotion. You must be in good physical and mental health to do this tour. We are concerned about your health and safety. Old Pueblo's tour coordinator has had first-aid and CPR training, but medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible during all or part of the tour. You are responsible for selecting events appropriate to your abilities and limitations. If you have any doubts about your ability to participate, please contact us prior to registering. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported when the reservation is made, and a follow-up explanatory letter may be required.

PARTICIPANTS MUST ABIDE by all federal, state, and tribal regulations pertaining to visitation to historic sites, antiquities, and artifact sites during Old Pueblo Archaeology Center tours. Collecting of artifacts, plants, animals, and mineral specimens is prohibited. Visit <https://azstateparks.com/archaeological-site-etiquette> and <http://www.oldpueblo.org/artifact-collecting/> for information about archaeological site conservation and etiquette.

MEMBERSHIP: Becoming a member of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center opens a world of new discoveries. A \$25, one-year "Friend" membership provides the *Old Pueblo Archaeology* bulletin and discounts on some of Old Pueblo's tour and course fees, and publications. Higher levels of membership may provide the member with opportunities to participate in archaeological research projects when such opportunities are available. For membership details visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/about-us/membership/> or contact Old Pueblo at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.