



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Testimony of the Society for American Archaeology Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Technology House Committee on Appropriations

March 14, 2025

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) is pleased to present the following testimony in support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for fiscal year 2026.

The SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 6,000 members, the SAA represents professional and avocational archaeologists, archaeology students in colleges and universities, and archaeologists working at tribal agencies, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. The SAA has members throughout the United States, as well as in many nations around the world.

The NSF is the nation's primary funding organization for large-scale fundamental research across all disciplines of science. Basic research is the foundation for all of the discoveries and innovations that power modern civilization. Many of these breakthroughs come at unforeseen times but would not occur without the research that the NSF makes possible through its grants. Research activity funded under the NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences is no exception. Science, which includes archaeology, is a multidimensional field in which discoveries enrich the public benefit. This has a huge impact on both our knowledge of the past and our understanding of life in the present, particularly concerning how past human societies adapted to some of the challenges that we are experiencing today. In our increasingly globalized economy and rapidly evolving world, such information is critical to the national interest.

Funding NSF at \$9.9 billion, and ensuring adequate numbers of personnel, would bring the Foundation back to its FY 2023 level. This amount will enable the NSF to make its critical investments in research while still allowing for congressional and administration priorities.