

The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics/Conduct

Metal detecting can be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding hobbies out there today. But it does take place outdoors, in public and often on private lands. Your actions and attitude while detecting reflect upon us all. If you are just beginning or have never understood there to be any Code of Ethics or Conduct for Metal Detecting allow me to inform and educate you now so you, and others after you, might long enjoy and benefit from this hobby...

1. Never trespass. Always get permission to traverse private or restricted lands.
2. Always respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
3. Before searching public sites, always check laws, ordinances or regulations that may govern your hunt.
4. Always leave gates as they are found whether open or closed.
5. Never do anything that might contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.
6. Never tamper with signs, maintenance facilities or equipment.
7. Never damage or destroy property, buildings or what is left of ghost towns or deserted structures.
8. Never spook, taunt, provoke or otherwise disturb wild or domestic animals.
9. Never leave litter. Pack out any and all trash or debris you create or find.
10. If necessary, clean up after a previous detectorist. Acting in spite of him or even just ignoring his transgressions will only hurt us all in the end.
11. Always use the correct digging or probing equipment to make the least intrusion or marks.
12. Never throw trash finds back in the hole.
13. Leave as little sign of your passing as possible.
14. Always fill in your holes, including plowed fields, sand pits, beaches and in water.
15. Study, learn, appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife, and private property.
16. Be thoughtful, considerate, courteous and respectful of others at all times.
17. Protect the metal detecting hobby by being a good will ambassador at all times.
18. Report the discovery of any items of possible significant historical value to a local historian or museum in accordance with the latest legislation of your area.
19. Report any live ammunition or other potentially lethal or toxic objects you may find to authorities after carefully noting or marking the location.

20. Report any criminal activities you see to proper authorities immediately. You are not a "snitch" or a "tattletale". You are a citizen with both rights, privileges AND duties. Respect them as they were hard-earned by many who came before you.