

## **Friends of Sierra Rock Art \* KNOW YOUR PACE FOR MONITORING PETROGLYPH SITES \***

Knowing your “pace” allows you to use walking to measure approximate distances at a rock art site. This can help you, for example, find a petroglyph panel, artifact, or feature in relation to a site’s datum (while also using your compass). In such a case, you would know from the site record the distance in meters the object is from the datum and at what compass bearing it is.

### To know what your pace is:

Step 1: Measure out 30 meters in a straight line.

Step 2: As naturally as possible, walk from one end to the other ten times, counting your number of steps. (You can write down the number of steps for each of the ten 30 meter “walks” and then add them up at the end.)

Step 3: Divide 300 (the total number of meters walked) by the total number of steps to get the metric distance for each step.

A “pace” is actually defined as *two* steps, so double the answer from Step 3 to get the metric distance for one of your paces. (*Or just use individual “steps.”*)

### Example using “steps:”

(1) Lets say that walking the 30 meter distance 10 times (ie 300 meters) took 447 steps.  
 $447 \text{ (total steps)} \div 300 \text{ (total meters)} = 1.49 \text{ steps per meter}$  (in this case, you can round this off to  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  steps if you want)

(2) If you want to find a petroglyph panel the site record tells you is 56 meters and 190 degrees [South] from the datum, with your back close to the datum and your compass in hand (adjusted for declination), as you face 190 degrees, you walk about 84 “steps” ( $1 \frac{1}{2} \text{ steps} \times 56 \text{ meters} = 84$ ) to the panel.

Of course, you may not be able to walk a straight line on even ground, so you have to allow for the terrain (and don’t walk over petroglyphs). In other words, it may take more steps than you projected. (Knowing how to navigate with a compass can help if you have to walk around obstacles)