Cemetery Preservation Do’s and Don’ts

**Do’s**
- First, do no harm
- Learn about your state’s cemetery laws
- Take the time to get to know the grounds and get familiar with any unsafe conditions
- Ask for help and advice before touching anything
- Become familiar with the different materials used to make monuments
- Check and make sure that a stone is structurally sound before beginning the cleaning process
- Use straight water, or an NCPTT approved cleaner—we recommend D/2 Biological Solution
- Test your cleaner on small patches before cleaning the whole stone
- Use soft bristle brushes with natural or synthetic bristles
- Use common sense and know your personal limitations (knowing enough to be dangerous is dangerous)
- Always use the proper tools and techniques
- Plan and pack enough food and drinks for a full day in case you run into obstacles and have to stay later than planned to finish
- Help teach the community that cemeteries are places that deserve respect
- Prepare to meet some of the nicest people you will ever know
- Take your time and enjoy your time outdoors doing something good for somebody who can never thank you

**Don’ts**
- Don’t use a power washer
- Don’t use bleach, salt laden cleaners, or other harsh chemicals to clean the stone
- Don’t sand blast or use power tools
- Don’t use any chemical that is classified as corrosive
- Don’t use brushes with rough or metal bristles
- Don’t use herbicides or pesticides on or around the stone
- Don’t use concrete, asphalt, or mortar on stones
- Don’t set up fallen stones unless you are prepared to fix them correctly
- Don’t build a frame around a broken stone to make it stand up
- Don’t make a sidewalk out of broken stones
- Don’t build a common footer to set stones with broken or missing bases
- Don’t use any adhesive that isn’t specifically designed for monument work—DON’T use silicone, tar set, Liquid Nails, JB Weld, Gorilla Glue, etc.
- Don’t take unnecessary chances, it’s just not worth it
- Don’t forget your sunscreen and bug spray
- Don’t compromise with historic preservation because when you do historic preservation is compromised