

# Policy for NSS Museum Donations

The NSS Museum gladly welcomes new additions to the collections, especially items representing the history of the NSS and caving in general. Lighting systems, vertical caving gear, clothing and symbolic items (T-shirts, posters, patches, etc.) are among the items suitable for the museum.

The large number of items already under our care and limited storage for items dictates that we follow strict criteria when determining whether to accept new pieces. Factors include not only storage but long-term management costs and potential for research and exhibition use, and to eliminate multiples of items. Please read our Acquisition Guidelines below. Once you are satisfied that your potential donation meets our criteria please submit our Donation Questionnaire for review.

## Acquisition Guidelines

1. The item(s) must be consistent with and relevant to the stated purpose, scope, and activities of the National Speleological Society.
2. Primary consideration will be given to the Museum's ability to provide proper care and storage for any item. No item(s) will be considered for acquisition if future care and preservation needs exceed the Museum's resources.
3. Historic, unique, one-of-a-kind items and prototypes take precedence over common every day gear.
4. Items must have clear title and be free of copyright restrictions.
5. The items must be in reasonably good shape, clean, and free of contaminants. It is understood that caving gear becomes worn, but please, don't think of the museum as a place to dispose of your moldy, muddy cave gear.
6. Donors must provide verifiable record of authenticity and provenance for all proposed donations. The provenance of acquired items shall be a matter of public record.
7. If the Museum discovers that it has acquired item (s) in violation of the above statement, the Museum shall seek to return the item(s) to the legal owner or shall seek to determine the proper means of disposition through recognized authorities.

8. All acquisitions are to be outright and unconditional. The Museum cannot guarantee that objects donated will be placed on exhibition, or that they will be exhibited or stored intact as a single collection.
9. All donations to the Museum's collections are irrevocable upon the formal and physical transfer to the Museum.
10. All acquisitions by gift or bequest to the Museum will remain in the possession of the Museum for as long as they retain their physical integrity and authenticity, and as long as they remain useful for the purposes of the Museum.
11. Donations may be tax deductible within IRS guidelines. Please consult your tax advisor.