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I love caves. I love watching people's faces as they see, for the very first time, what's been under their feet all along. I am running for the Board because I want to help the NSS preserve, protect and sustainably share the awesome beauty and wonder of cave environments. Over the past eight years, I have worked directly with young adults in various capacities—I believe that these experiences make me uniquely suited to help the NSS address its need for a stable and growing membership.

As a leader with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Caving Club, I can attest that the youth have not lost interest in caves, at all. Every weekend we can, we are down there teaching university students how to sustainably appreciate and conserve our local cave environments. But when these student cavers graduate and scatter across the country, even the most involved student leaders do not join their local grotto, because they do not know what the NSS is or what it does.

I've worked to facilitate a relationship between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Caving Club and the Boston Grotto. Boston Grotto members have shared their knowledge and experience with student cavers through vertical practices, seminars and joint trips to local caves, which I have organized and led. The Boston Grotto members' willingness to volunteer their time has served not only to make the MIT Caving Club students safer cavers, but also encouraged these students to get more involved with the NSS: joining their local grotto, going to Northeast Regional Organization meetings, traveling to Convention, and attending courses offered by the National Cave Rescue Commission.

Experience has taught me that if we wish to recruit and retain young cavers, we must be proactive in solving problems of access and awareness. As a Director, I will expand partnerships like the one I've forged between the MIT Caving Club and Boston Grotto to a national scale, and I will work with student caving organizations around the country to see how the NSS can best support the needs of their communities. I will work to improve our digital outreach: our organization needs clear and consistent messaging on the web, as it is the first place many people look for information. These and other outreach strategies would not only help recruit new members, but also help secure the NSS as a national authority and invaluable resource in the caving space.

I have a broad base of experience in student organizations. In 2011-2012, I co-chaired a coalition of 25 schools working with Habitat for Humanity to build a block of affordable housing in East Baltimore. In 2013-2014, I co-directed an Advanced Placement preparatory program, hiring undergraduate and graduate students as instructors, admitting students, and overseeing the weekly operation of a program which provided instruction for 150 high-schoolers. In 2014-2015, I served as the residential risk-manager for Tau Epsilon Phi at MIT, providing 24/7 support for undergraduate students who sought my

counsel on academic concerns, health questions, and interpersonal issues. Since 2015, I've led students on outdoor trips with the MIT Outing Club and I've been a leader with the MIT Caving Club since 2018.

Professionally, I am a researcher in the Department of Chemistry at MIT. I am a published scientist, and my work has been recognized by the Boston College Legacy Grant for Service, the Thiel Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I have traveled extensively to collaborate with researchers from the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), Case Western Reserve University, The University of Akron, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Columbia University, University of California Los Angeles, University of Ghana, and the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Collaborations far from the lab have taught me to solve problems creatively and rapidly as they arise and to listen intently to my fellow scientists.

As a Director, I would bring my diverse experiences working with student organizations, the results-directed approach of a research scientist, the creativity required to do science out of a suitcase, and a wholehearted promise to listen intently to the needs and concerns of NSS members.

It would be an honor to serve you.