



Hello NSS members! My friends call me Philip and I've been caving since I was 14 years old. After finding and exploring a cave behind my neighborhood, a family friend gifted me an NSS membership. When I gave my first talk to the Nashville Grotto at age 18 on my dye tracing project for school, I realized the caving community is something I wanted to be a part of for the rest of my life. Since then, I've been awarded the James A. Mitchell Award for a scientific paper and am a Fellow of the Society.

As I got increasingly involved, I started an NSS News Column called Cave Chronicles, wrote numerous articles for the NSS News, Association of Mexican Cave Studies (AMCS), and grotto newsletters. I have been a member of five different grottos, an active expedition caver, and passionate about our sport for 28 years. During this time span, my commitment to our community has also grown. Most recently, I served as the Chair of the ad hoc committee guiding the NSS to determine what to do with our old Cave Avenue property in Huntsville, Alabama. All this and lots of caving prepared me for the next phase of my underground career.

When not underground, I serve as the owner and leader of multiple successful real-estate-related businesses. Recent challenges involve hiring new staff members, letting staff go who are no longer a fit for my evolving organizations, and growing assets under management from \$18m to \$32m by year's end. My experience with financial statements, setting and meeting short- and long-term goals, and managing teams are skills that I bring to the table. Making the NSS's finances transparent to the membership and communicating what we are spending, why we are spending, and how we are spending is important to enabling members to understand how we as a society are serving our purpose. Building this foundation will set the Society up to grow our membership and impact on caves nationally and globally. I am a patient listener and aspire to remove my emotions from tough decisions that have to be made.

At the core of my being, serving the NSS and ensuring the current and future success is something I am extremely passionate about as a dedicated caver. I bring a mature yet young-at-heart ethos to the NSS BOG. I naturally come in with strong informed opinions. I understand that what is involved in collaborative work is the flexibility to use without hesitation a better plan than one's own and the determination to convince others through discussion to adopt the ideas that I believe in.

The issues I believe are critical to our society here and now are the following:

- Membership growth
- Investing locally in grottos
- Modernizing our national organizational structure to introduce an executive director
- Balancing our need to serve the younger generation of digitally-native cavers without compromising our commitment to our forefathers.

I humbly present my platform to our members in hopes that you will vote for me to represent you at this important moment in NSS history.