



I got my start caving in my home state of Alabama with the Birmingham Grotto. During that time, I served as secretary and was known for greeting new members and getting them underground. I joined other TAG grottos during this time, such as Huntsville and Sewanee Mountain. I actively caved with members of Dogwood City Grotto, Clock Tower Grotto, and more. I volunteered during events such as SERA Cave Carnival, TAG Work Weekends, and Cave Fest.

Eventually I started traveling and joined grottos in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. In the summer of 2019, I accepted a position on a cave crew with the Montana Conservation Corps. The Pryor Mountains Cave Inventory Program enlists three cavers each summer to search for caves in the Pryor Mountains of Wyoming and Montana. I was proud to serve in a capacity I quite enjoyed, looking for caves. During my summer, I learned to collaborate and communicate with public agencies, an important skill I would like to bring to this position.

More recently I moved to New Mexico for a job as a field technician with a geophysical consulting company that does mostly cave and karst surveys. Nowadays, I'm active with the Sandia Grotto and the Pecos Valley Grotto and am enjoying getting involved in caving projects in New Mexico. I have been attending BoG meetings so that I will be better informed about the position and responsibilities.

What I'd like to bring to the NSS: I often see the NSS getting pulled in different directions. I think there are plenty of good ideas being worked on already. I find our staff of volunteers is often spread thin, and we should focus on our tasks at hand. I plan to support the current BoG members in their initiatives, as opposed to adding to the workload. Some issues that are important to me are: transparent communication between the BoG and NSS members, revamping the NSS website to be more modern, and addressing our decline in membership. In the haste to modernize, I often see our older members left out. I've also had people of various backgrounds tell me they wished caving was more inclusive to them. I hope to be an open ear and a voice for members of different backgrounds, ages, races, and creeds. If you have a concern with the NSS, I hope to be your voice in the BoG.

Why me? During my time spent traveling, I have joined over a dozen caving organizations in the form of grottos, cave conservancies, and state cave surveys. I feel like I have a good eye into the caving community and hear members voice their needs and concerns from a variety of areas. I have the passion, energy, and time to dedicate myself to the position. I have experience serving on a grotto executive committee. I'm very accessible and able to communicate through email, the NSS Slack, phone, social media, and other platforms. I'm willing to listen and represent cavers from multiple regions.

I have what I consider to be a healthy obsession with caving. When I found caving it totally changed the path my life was on. Nowadays most people I know are cavers. Cavers are my family. A day doesn't go by that I don't think of caves. I was able to get a caving job, and still cave in my free time. I dream about caves. When I was nominated to be an NSS Director, it was easy for me to say yes. It makes sense to give back to the community and hobby that has given so much to me.

Thank you for your consideration.