

## Caving Rules

1. Never enter a cave alone!
2. Always get permission before entering a cave – Every cave has an owner, respect landowners and their property.
3. Cave in groups of at least 4, and have an experienced caver in the group.
4. Know your group – make sure they understand and practice cave conservation and safe caving techniques.
5. Let someone know where you are going, and when you expect to return.
6. Always have at least 3 reliable sources of light.
7. Know the cave and check weather conditions before entering.
8. Always wear a helmet & have proper equipment in good working order.
9. Always have twice as many spare batteries/carbide than you think you'll need to complete the trip.
10. Know your limits, and have proper training and safety equipment before attempting advanced techniques such as vertical caving.
11. Know and abide by the state and federal cave protection laws.
12. It is illegal to: break or remove broken formations; disturb harm or remove cave creatures; disturb or remove historic artifacts or bones; deface the cave by leaving litter or marking on the cave walls.
13. Don't leave anything in the cave – Pack it in, pack it out! Dispose of all trash properly.
14. Never use ropes, ladders, etc. that have been left in a cave.
15. Never run in a cave, and never jump when you can climb.
16. Always stay clear of people above and below when climbing.
17. If you dislodge anything while climbing, scream "ROCK!"
18. If someone screams "ROCK!", don't look up!
19. Always stay with your group – don't wander off. If you get lost, STAY PUT... someone will find you.
20. Never drink cave water – it may look clean, but can be polluted.
21. If anyone on the trip becomes injured or is excessively tired, that person should be escorted from the cave ASAP by other experienced trip members.
22. Don't give cave locations to just anyone! They may damage the cave, or trespass, or get hurt or lost. Rescue operations can have a lasting impact on caves.
23. Please report cave vandals to the cave owner and the police. The actions of a few bad apples can ruin caves and cause caves to be closed to everyone.
24. *Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but carefully placed footprints, kill nothing but time. (NSS Motto)*