

## **SAFE CAVING PILOT PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose:**

Many serious cave explorers want nothing to do with youth organizations. Primarily, Boy Scout groups are blamed for irresponsible cave exploration. In reality the problem lies with the adult leaders, who blatantly disregard youth safety, youth organization policies, and cave resources.

This situation creates concern within cave exploring groups, youth organizations, and search and rescue groups. The Boy Scouts of America and other youth organizations are actually 'the good guys,' with policies and procedures that require safe and responsible caving practices and behavior.

Something is needed to get the cave exploring community involved in preparing future leaders and members for our Associations, Societies, and Grottos.

Assure that youth group policies and procedures are followed. And preserve our cave resources.

### **Description:**

The Safe Caving Pilot Project provides structure and suggestions for safe cave exploration, cave conservation, and preservation. A safe caving pilot project being developed in Utah has attracted the interest and support of the American Cave Conservation Association, National Parks Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Lehman Cave National Park, and the Utah School Land Trust.

The project generated a program and a useful tested process to orient adult youth leaders and train youth group members in safe caving practices cave conservation and cave resource preservation. It will provide a template for NSS Grottos, BSA Councils, and Cave Owners to use for training to reduce the risk of cave accidents.