

Secret Cave Management Plan

The following Preserve Management Plan was adopted by the Board of Governors of the National Speleological Society to define management of Secret Cave. The intention of this plan is to protect the property and promote good relations between the NSS and neighboring land owners. Please observe the rules and encourage others to do the same so that this unique and outstanding cave may be enjoyed by all. Contact the NSS Secret Cave Property Managers at secretcavepreserve@caves.org if you have any questions or need to request special arrangements.

1. All visitors to the cave property must sign a release and disclaimer before entering the cave.
2. All parties must have a valid permit signed by the Preserve Managers. The permit is valid only for the day or dates reflected on the permit.
3. Access to the preserve is available only by permit.
4. Permission to visit the cave is in accordance with the [Tennessee Recreational Use Statute](#).
5. Parking is limited to the designated parking area.
6. Please do not block any roadways or any other vehicles.
7. To minimize the impact on the cave, the property and the wildlife, the NSS and preserve managers request that groups visiting the property be no larger than 8 people.
8. The person arranging the trip must be a current member of the NSS. All cavers visiting the property are strongly encouraged to join the NSS to help with its mission. When requesting a permit the identity of the NSS member who will accompany and be responsible for the activities of the group must be given. A permit will be issued in that person's name who will be responsible for insuring that all members of the group abide by the terms of the permit and the management plan.
9. All visitors accessing the preserve under an NSS access permit are required to pack out all waste and leave nothing on the preserve property or the cave.
10. Please keep noise to a minimum in order to avoid disturbing wildlife, other visitors, and neighbors in surrounding houses.
11. Use of the cave for any commercial activity or purpose including guided or commercial caving or other similar activity known as "cave for pay" is not allowed in accordance with the NSS commercial use policy.
12. Any unauthorized visitors or vandals encountered on the preserve should be reported immediately to the NSS preserve managers and the Putnam County Sheriff's office (1-931-528-8484). Ensure your own safety first, but make a reasonable effort to identify the individual, their vehicle, and tags.

13. Collection or removing of cultural or other artifacts is not allowed. Any observation of a cultural artifact should be reported to the NSS preserve managers with specific location information, a description of the object, and photos if possible.
14. Collection or removal of wildlife, plants, minerals or other items found on the property or in the cave, including scientific specimens is not allowed without the express written permission from the NSS Board.
15. Modification of the caves or property including the placement of bolts or other artificial anchors is prohibited without the express written permission from the NSS Board of Governors and the preserve managers.
16. By entering the cave you certify that you are in a good state of health and that you are aware of the obstacles in this particular preserve and are capable of doing the vertical rope work required to safely negotiate the cave passage.
17. Camping in the cave and on the preserve is not allowed. Fires of any type are not allowed.
18. Upon exiting the cave, please do not change clothes in any public area and respect the privacy of our neighbors.
19. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or use of illegal drugs is not permitted in the cave or on the preserve.
20. Smoking in the cave is not permitted.

Commercial Use Statement

The Board of Governors of the National Speleological Society reaffirms its standing policy that bans the commercial use of our properties, and specifically, prohibits any activity where a charge of any type is made or a payment of any type made to anyone organizing or leading a trip to the cave preserve.