

Speleo-Ed 2011

Focusing on the geology and life sciences of Sierra Nevada Caves



The Western Region of the National Speleological Society is pleased to present Speleo-Ed 2011 at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks near Three Rivers, California from May 13 to 15. This year's offerings focus on a wide range of cave science across many disciplines. With many new speakers and lots of field trips, this seminar should offer something for everyone. We hope you can join us!

About the Seminar

Speleo-Ed seminars are an outstanding way to learn more about cave exploration and science while enjoying a fun and social weekend with friends from across the western states. This year's seminar is roughly divided into two tracks - Physical Sciences and Life Sciences. With the gracious assistance of many volunteers and organizations, we have worked together to deliver a great spring weekend to kick off your summer caving season.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

These parks are home to giants: immense mountains, deep canyons, and huge trees. Thanks to their huge elevational range, 1,500' to 14,491', these parks protect stunningly diverse habitats. The Generals Highway climbs over 5000 feet from chaparral and oak-studded foothills to the awe-inspiring sequoia groves. From there, trails lead to the high-alpine wilderness which makes up most of these parks. Beneath the surface lie over 200 fascinating caverns.

Camping & Accommodations

With the gracious assistance of Sequoia National Park, we have reserved a loop of Lodgepole Campground for the 2011 Speleo-Ed seminar. Each campsite has a table and multiple campfire pits in place. There is ample space at each site, so cavers may be asked to share sites depending on attendance. We will have pit toilets available in the campground, but no shower facilities.

At this time, we expect the campground will be mostly free of snow. There is a possibility of wet or muddy conditions so you may want to bring a ground tarp for your tent. Be prepared for cool or cold evening temperatures.

All camping and park entrance fees are included in your registration. Seating at the seminar will be in short supply, so please bring a folding camp chair if you can. If possible, please carpool to save space and energy. There is no electrical power at the campground. Day use rates are available but do not include camping, Sunday's field trips or evening activities.

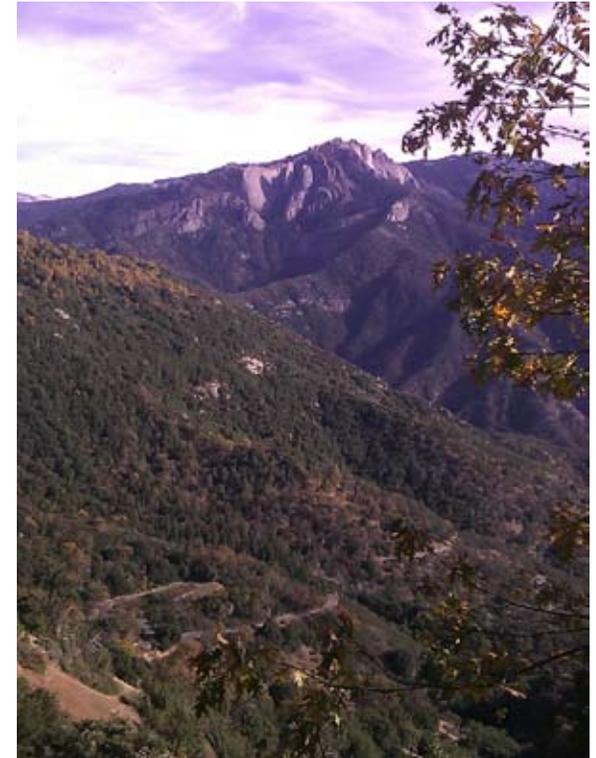
Western Cave Conservancy Dinner

The Western Cave Conservancy will host their traditional fund-raising dinner on Saturday evening. This optional event helps support the many programs the WCC offers to protect and preserve caves in the western states.

Western Region Business Meeting

The executive board of the Western Region will hold a business meeting on Saturday evening following dinner. Please be sure to bring your issues and ideas for discussion.

The Western Region is an Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society. Please visit us at www.caves.org/region/western



Lodgepole Campground at Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

May 13-15, 2011
Three Rivers, California

Produced by the Stanislaus Grotto on
behalf of the Western Region of the
National Speleological Society



Speleo-Ed 2011

May 13-15, 2011 - Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Getting There

From the intersection of Highway 99 and California 198 near Visalia, head east on CA-198 toward the town of Three Rivers (about 35 miles). Stay on 198 through Three Rivers until you come to the park entrance station. When you arrive at the entrance station, please identify yourself as a participant in the Speleo-Ed seminar at Lodgepole Campground. Speleo-Ed participants will be registered as park volunteers upon arrival at Lodgepole Campground allowing free access to the parks for this event.

From the entrance station, continue up the Generals Highway. Lodgepole Campground is located 2 miles from the Giant Forest sequoia grove and 21 miles from the Sequoia National Park entrance. The campground is located 1/4 mile from Lodgepole village along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. Follow the campground signs to the Log Bridge loop (campsites 151 through 214).



It is very important to pay attention to the current road construction projects on the Generals Highway. There may be limited windows during the day that vehicles will be allowed to pass. An e-mail will be sent out to the Western Region list a

few days before the seminar. You may also obtain up-to-date road and construction delay information by calling (559)565-3341 (press 1, then 4, then 1). Timing your arrival to the construction schedule will help you avoid lengthy delays in reaching the campground.

Kaweah River

Massive snow fall from this past winter will cause the Kaweah River to be running swiftly during our seminar. The cold water can pose a significant danger to children and pets. Please be careful.

Field Trips & Cave Trips

Several trips have been arranged for Saturday and Sunday to accommodate all skill levels. Sign-up sheets will be available at registration. If you would like to lead a trip, please contact the registration table on your arrival. Currently, the park does not allow any gear that has been used in any caves in White Nose Syndrome states. Please plan ahead if you intend to join any cave trips during the seminar.



When you Arrive

When you arrive at Lodgepole Campground, please come directly to the Log Bridge loop. We will be in sites 151 through 214. Registration will open at 6pm on Friday, May 13. If you arrive Saturday morning, please come to the Walter Fry Nature Center - located just across the bridge from our camp sites. ALL campers must be registered participants in the Speleo-Ed seminar. Limited RV sites may be available by advance notice, but there are no utility hook-ups. There will be no potable water source in the campground on our side of the river. Please plan ahead for your own needs.

What to Bring

Lodgepole Campground offers semi-improved camping facilities. Standard gear should suffice. Seating will be in short supply, so please bring a camp chair for sessions and meetings. Sierra weather can be cold during this time of year, but daytime averages are typically pleasant. Be prepared for possible inclement weather. Each campsite features a fire pit, but there is no wood collection in the area. The Lodgepole Village store is located 1/4 mile away from the campground.



The Walter Fry Nature Center will be the site of our Speleo-Ed sessions on Saturday. It is located a short walk away from our campground. Walter Fry was the parks' first superintendent.

Be Bear Aware!



Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are an integral part of the Sierra ecosystem and one of the many wildlife species the National Park Service is mandated to protect. Black bears range throughout the parks - where they forage for natural foods - digging up roots in meadows, ripping apart logs, and peering into tree cavities for food.

Lodgepole Campground may be visited by black bears. If these usually shy animals learn to seek human food, they may damage cars, coolers, and tents. If a bear gets very destructive, it must be killed. To prevent this, you MUST follow the park's strict requirements to properly store items like food, toothpaste and deodorants during the seminar. Bear-proof storage boxes are provided at each campsite. You WILL be fined by the park rangers for failure to use these boxes!

For more information: www.caves.org/region/western/speleoed/

Friday

Welcome to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks!

6:00 PM Registration Open - Please come to the main registration tent set up near the Walter Fry Nature Center at Lodgepole Campground.

8:00 PM Irreverent Video Screening: *The Wizard of Mars!*

In this 1965 cult classic, four astronauts crash land on Mars where they must try to survive with only four days of supplies. "Mars" is barren except for some canals with huge maggots with fins. After travelling through a golden igneous cavern (shot in Lehman Cave), braving a storm (also in Lehman Cave) and escaping through a volcano (yep, part Lehman, part Valley of Fire), they discover an Oz-ish golden road which leads them to the unchanging ruins of what was once a beautiful Martian city. ... *We'll bring the popcorn!*

Saturday

Physical Sciences Track		Life Sciences Track	
CLASS SESSIONS	9:00 AM Virtual Rigger - vRigger.com Software Review, Ron Davis, Mother Lode Grotto / NCRC	Backcountry Trauma: Psychological Responses in Rescue , Amanda Mortimer, CSU Fresno / San Joaquin Valley Grotto	
	10:00 AM Redwood Canyon Projects & Lilburn Cave Update, John Tinsley, US Geological Survey / SFBC / CRF	Ergonomic Analysis of Ascending Systems , John Woods, Southern California Grotto	
	10:30 AM The Geomorphology of Hurricane Crawl Cave, Joel Despain, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	Archaeological Discoveries in Sequoia NP Caves , Tom Burge, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	
	11:15 AM Sequoia Cave Climate Preliminary Results, Joel Despain, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	Suspension Trauma Revisited , Roger Mortimer, MD, UCSF Medical School / NCRC / SJVG	
	11:45 AM Risk Factors Associated with WNS Among Hibernating Bat Colonies, Winifred F. Frick, UC Santa Cruz	Cave Life of Sequoia National Park , David Hunter, www.CaveLifePhoto.com & G.O. Graening, Sacramento State University	
12:45 PM Lunch - there is a full service campground store on site. You're on your own for lunch - please plan ahead.			
FIELD TRIP	1:30 PM to 6:00 PM Moro Rock A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the summit. Offers a spectacular view of the park! Watch for trail ice.	WORKSHOP	1:30 PM to 6:00 PM Decontamination Station Learn how to safely decontaminate your cave gear to protect against WNS. We'll be using the newly revised decontamination protocols you will need to know before going to the Colorado convention in July.
	FIELD TRIP		1:30 PM to 6:00 PM Tokopah Falls Trail Towering cliffs, a sparking stream, and a giant waterfall await you on this self-guided 3.5 mile hike.
6:00 PM Social Time! Please join us at the main Speleo-Ed tent to catch up with old and new friends. Hosted beer & sodas.			
6:30 PM Chef Dopplemayr presents "Dinner in the High Sierra" - All proceeds to benefit the Western Cave Conservancy. Sponsored by Barefoot Wines!			
7:30 PM Regional Business Meeting - Main Speleo-Ed Tent This is the bi-annual business meeting of the Western Region. Bring your ideas & issues!			
9:00 PM Marianne Russo's Schnapps Tasting! Now an annual tradition, join the Western Cave Conservancy fund-raiser at the main Speleo-Ed tent for the Schnapps Tasting party & social gathering. Beer & sodas are included in this event. All proceeds to benefit the Western Cave Conservancy.			

CAVE TRIP

10AM - 4:00PM
Crystal Cave Trip

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks could have been set aside solely to protect the amazing caves found here. The parks protect half of the caves more than a mile long in California, including the longest cave in the state. They contain Pleistocene-era fossils, rare minerals and unique animals.

The parks' first superintendent, Walter Fry, gave detailed descriptions of five of the caves in his 1918 annual report. Crystal Cave has been one of the parks' primary visitor attractions since 1941.

This trip departs from the Walter Fry Nature Center at 10AM.

Sunday

10:00 AM Lost Soldier's Cave, Crystal Cave - these trips will be offered as space allows.

12:00 PM Ranger hikes, Tokopah Falls trail.

Additional Sunday cave trips will be announced when possible.

Seminar Notes

ALL participants must be registered attendees of the Speleo-Ed seminar. Camping fees from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon are covered in your registration. Please camp only in our designated areas at Lodgepole Campground. If you camp outside of the sites we have reserved, you may be subject to a daily camping fee.

The Speleo-Ed registration tent will be open in the campground at 6PM on Friday. And on Saturday morning at the Walter Fry Nature Center.

Campfires are only allowed in designated fire pits. There is no wood collection at the campground.

Pets are welcome but must be on leash at all times. Please clean up after your animals.

Please be courteous of other campers. Quiet hours are from 10PM to 8AM.

While we expect decent weather, seasonal extremes are not out of the question here. Be prepared.

Check in advance for road construction delays to time your arrival at the park. Large RVs are not advised on the Generals Highway.

Speleo-Ed 2011 Registration

May 13-15, 2011 - Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Please type or print legibly - Use one form per person - Detach and mail with registration payment or register online at www.caves.org/region/western/speleoed/

Name: _____ National Speleological Society #: _____
 Address: _____ Age: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____
 Day phone: _(____)_____ Evening phone: _(____)_____ Mobile/pager: _(____)_____
 Grotto affiliation: _____ Dietary or health considerations: _____
 Emergency contact: _____



Basic registration - Includes camping, sessions and field trips ¹ :	\$36.00	
Day-Use Only: No camping, no Sunday events, 9AM to 10PM Saturday Only:	\$22.00	
Western Cave Conservancy Fund-Raising Dinner (under 12, \$10) ² :	\$20.00	
Western Region Membership (optional):	\$10.00	
Late registration - received after May 9 or on-site:	\$6.00	
Speleo-Ed 2011 T-shirts - priced per shirt, list quantity and sizes:	\$12.50	
T-shirt size: sm. <input type="checkbox"/> med. <input type="checkbox"/> lg. <input type="checkbox"/> xl. <input type="checkbox"/> xxl. <input type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		

Please mail this registration form and your check or money order payable to:

Western Region NSS
 Attn: Speleo-Ed 2011
 114 Casentini Street, Apt. A
 Salinas, CA 93907-2223

You can also register online at www.caves.org/region/western/speleoed

For additional information, please contact;
 Matt Bowers, Event Coordinator
matt66@thirdmedia.com (209) 529-9000

¹ All participants must be registered for the Speleo-Ed seminar. Unregistered persons in the campground will be asked to leave.

² This dinner *always* sells out - please register early if you want a place at the table. \$20 adult, \$10 children under 12. All proceeds go to support the Western Cave Conservancy.