

## 2024 Convention Overview

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Welcome back to Sewanee, Tennessee. Previous conventions were held here in 1989 and 1998. Both previous conventions were held at the University of the South. The 2024 Convention is being held at Saint Andrew's Sewanee School Campus which is very near the University. Our convention website is up and running so check it out for the most up-to-date information. <https://caves.org/convention/2024>

### About the location

The campus is 530 acres. Most of the convention activities and camping will be on campus. The campus has plenty of space for tent camping. We will have a big tent for the Howdy Party, Campground Party and the Banquet. The Awards and Photo Salon will be held off site at The Caverns which is a popular music venue in a cave. This is only 14 miles from the Convention site. The school's Classroom buildings, theatre and gym will be used to host sessions, vendors and meetings. The dining hall on campus will be serving breakfast and lunch on site.

Additionally, the campus has the best swimming hole on the mountain, a rock-climbing wall and cave, and hiking trails all on the property. We will also have Cave Sim (<https://www.cavesim.com>) and the Gauntlet on site (<https://gauntletsrt.org>).

### Caving Opportunities

The convention area is generously endowed with both vertical and horizontal caves within an hour drive. We have a great team working on both guided and self-led trips. A listing of closed and limited access caves will be available. Our staff is currently visiting landowners to secure needed permissions for visiting certain caves. Some of this information will be available in the guidebook and some at the cave information area on campus.

### Area Activities

Aside from being a great caving area, it is also a prime area for hiking, biking, paddling and rock climbing. We are compiling information about some great area hikes that we plan to include in the guidebook. There is a nearby Zipline attraction that is only 18 miles from the event and groups of 10 or more get a discount. Also, there are many other attractions for non-caving family members in surrounding areas including several commercial caves, an aquarium, distilleries, museums, and lots of great places to eat.

### Food and lodging

On campus we have tent camping and small camper space (no electricity or hookups). Dorm rooms are available on campus and can be reserved for you when you register for the convention. Some Monteagle, Tennessee motels are giving 10% discounts to NSS attendees if you mention the convention when you reserve your lodging. The motels giving discounts will be posted to the convention website as they are confirmed. There are several Airbnb and tiny home style rental cabins in the area that you can find if you search for these online.

There are two RV campgrounds Sasquatch Farm and Bigfoot Adventure on the mountain. (<https://sasquatchfarm.com> and <https://bigfootadventuretn.com>) These campgrounds are in opposite directions

from the campus but are both 18 miles from the campus. Hook ups are available but limited. Both have agreed to give a 10% discount to Convention Attendees.

Please reserve early to be sure you get a spot since the convention is the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The registration website is now open at \$265 per person. Preregistration discount will end on 5/1/2024.  
<https://caves.org/convention/2024-nss-convention>