

It's an honor to be running for a Director position with the National Speleological Society. I think everyone that knows me is aware of my passion for caving, cave conservation, and the caving community. Finding caving changed my whole course of life for the better and it's rare I go even an hour without thinking of something caving related. Since I found caving in 2017 it has strongly influenced most of my decisions in life such as the friends I have, the places I live and travel to, the jobs I apply to, and much more.

I currently serve on the NSS Membership committee with the goal of raising our membership numbers. I have held numerous positions in the caving community such as Secretary of the Birmingham Grotto, Vice-Chair of the Sandia Grotto, and Vice-Chair of the Southwestern Region of the NSS. I have worked in the caving world professionally through my time serving with the Montana Conservation Corps as a Cave Inventory Technician, my time with Southwest Geophysical Consulting as a Field Technician performing cave and karst surveys, resistivity surveys, and ground-penetrating radar surveys; and my time protecting sensitive bat colonies through my work with Kennedy Above / Underground.

I am perhaps best known in the caving community for my online presence where I enjoy highlighting the comedic and lighter-side of caving. I am also active in creating, administrating, and moderating many online caving communities. I am most proud of having created the Cave and Karst Job Board which I believe is the only place you can find an aggregated listing of cave and karst jobs and internships.

I devote a lot of my personal time and energy to caves. I want what is best for the caves and cavers alike, which is to see caves continue to be protected while allowing responsible access to responsible cavers. Cave access is an important issue to me as we have all seen access shrink in recent years here in the United States. I am an advocate for responsible access which I see in many areas is being discouraged, while wanton irresponsible access goes unchecked. I also view the hiring of an Executive Director for the NSS to be important for the growth of the NSS and will support such endeavors if I am elected to serve.

Please reach out to me with your concerns and input about the NSS. What do you think we are doing wrong? What are we doing right? What benefits would you like to see as a member that the NSS could offer? We are not without funds, we just need members to let us know what is important to them. Don't be afraid to start a dialogue with me!

If you are a caver but you are unsure if you support me, let's change that! Reach out to me with any questions you might have. I want to know what's important to you as a member and how you would like to see the NSS evolve over time. My main interest in running is being an advocate for the membership and steering the direction of the society that would most benefit the membership and the caves.

Respectfully,

Zach Englebert

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