

I started caving 7 years ago while working at Carlsbad Caverns, but since I was a kid, I've been obsessed with the underground. As a kid on family vacations and road trips, I would force my family to stop for cave and mine tours throughout the US. It wasn't until I was interviewing for an Interpretive Ranger position at Carlsbad Caverns that I realized that there were people who went caving for fun, science, sport, and work, and that I could be one of them.

During my 4 years in the Carlsbad area I quickly learned how to cave, and more recently have prioritized caving all over the Guadalupe, the Grand Canyon, Texas, and Mexico. I was elected VP of the Pecos Valley Grotto in 2018, and in 2019 I was nominated and awarded the Tom Meador award, for exceptional new cavers in the Southwest Region. I've spent time relocating and surveying caves in the High Guads, rigging and rerigging ropes, placing data loggers, counting bats, creating a novel way to count and inventory broken speleothems, making SAR pre-plans, conducting cave climatology studies, assisting friends with Master's and PhD research in caves, and even have worked on an impact mapping and photomonitoring project. I particularly enjoy cave survey and cartography and lead a few projects. Needless to say, my caving experience is quite varied, and I've been lucky to meet and learn from all the cavers around me.

Since my time in the Guadalupe I've worked as a Wilderness Ranger at Mount Rainier National Park in the summers, and also work at Zara Environmental LLC, and Bat Conservation International. These positions have increased my appreciation for the complex work and skills needed to study and manage natural resources.

As many of us have discovered, caves are special places, one of the few on earth where one can go where no one else has before. That gives us a special role in not only discovering those places, but protecting them while being responsible for sharing and teaching others about them. Since I began caving, building relationships has been integral in expanding my caving community. I think the same is true for the NSS as an organization. Strengthening relationships between the NSS, government agencies and land managers, and other organizations is very important to me. Being able to work together with land managers and property owners to achieve our common goals of protecting these special underground spaces, while expanding our knowledge of them is essential to caving. As national issues like bolting in wilderness come up, the NSS should be able to bridge gaps between cavers and land management agencies to collaborate, and if elected, I would help promote and support these relationships.

If elected I will also continue to support relationships with government, non-government communities and organizations, as well as land owners to further the NSS mission. These relationships increase the reach of where new members can discover caving and they support community building outside of our pre-existing caver community.

As the Board has recently put in work to increase membership, pass a strategic plan, and financially get the NSS in a stronger place, if elected I intend to continue this work strengthening the organization for long term success. As we continue to gain membership, it is important to me that we remain open and welcoming to a diverse group of new cavers. Organizing a set of

tactics for grottos, and recognizing new cavers, in order to retain new members is just as important as the NSS tackling the issue on a large scale. As outdoor spaces are becoming more diverse, caving should reflect that, and taking concrete steps to support, welcome, respect, and acknowledge people of color, indigenous folks, and the LGBT community is vital.

If you vote for me you're electing to continue to strengthen efforts to expand our community, by building relationships with outside organizations and welcoming new cavers at all levels.