

*This Newsletter is a collection of useful and informative details about your attendance at the 2025 NSS Convention. Please read this carefully and send your questions to: [2025convention@caves.org](mailto:2025convention@caves.org)*

## **Fun Facts, Useful Tips and Things That Are Good To Know In Advance:**

**- The Mayor of Cobleskill Rebecca Stanton-Terk, the President of SUNY Cobleskill Dr. Marion Terenzio and the incoming NSS Executive Director Annette Summers Engel** will all be joining us on the steps of Bouck Hall at 8 AM on Monday for the opening ceremony. Be sure to join us for the kickoff!

**- We plan a very special evening at the Awards Banquet on Friday night.** A program for the evening will be at your table. Seating will be opened at 5:30 PM, with food service from Nicole's Catering at 6 PM. There will be a brief break before the beginning of awards while we clear tables and move all seating towards the stage to assure the best experience for our audience. Your Master of Ceremonies will be Dr. Hazel Barton. Awards Department Chair Bill Steele will lead us through the presentations portion of the evening.

**- We have an amazing camping and activities site at the Sunshine Fairgrounds.** We have plenty of places to tent or park your rig. Water, bathrooms and showers are readily available. Bring your bicycle for travel around the site and the short trip to the college. Thank you for keeping a few important items in mind there to assist the convention staff and the incredibly helpful people working at the site: No fires. No pets. No tents inside or under any structures. No firearms or fireworks. Remember that sites with electrical and water hookups are available on a reserved and assigned basis only. A horse group will be moving into the east end of this very large facility late in the week. Please respect the marked separation between our respective areas. Entry to the NSS areas of the Fairgrounds will be for registered attendees only. The campground will be open to preregistered attendees starting at 5 PM on Friday, June 20. If you are not preregistered, you will need to visit on-site registration at the college, which opens at Noon on Saturday, June 21, before coming to the campground. There will be no parking next to tenting sites. Parking will be along roadways or in designated areas only. We must leave the campground by noon on Saturday, June 28.

**- Shuttle, Cobleskill: Getting from here to there during the week.** It is only a little over a mile between the campground and sessions at the college. The most direct route is along a village street. Downtown Cobleskill is even closer, and several restaurants and convenient stores are located between camping and the campus. Morning and afternoon shuttles will be available. On campus, our fleet of golf carts will be in service all day for people needing a quick ride from parking areas and to the food services. However, nothing is particularly remote. Most activities are clustered in a very small area with large and small sessions, exhibits, vendors, salons and other activities all within a very easy walk of each other. Consider bringing your bike or planning to rideshare from the campground for added convenience.

**- Cave trips will have sign-up and departures from the campground.** Erik Nieman and his team have arranged an extensive selection of trips. The majority of caves requiring vertical will be pre-rigged courtesy of PMI, which donated more than 1400 feet of rope to make this possible. Be sure to visit Erik's cave trip headquarters in the campground to check out the trips.

- **Taps And Kegs Aplenty.** (If you have something aplenty, you have a lot of it.) The convention has secured a 9-tap, two-sided, refrigerated tap truck to keep the beverages flowing at our campground events.

- **Shower Availability.** There are several shower areas available in the campground. Look for signage on these buildings. We will also have an NSS temporary shower setup running at peak periods. At the college, locker room showers will be available from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM in Bouck Hall downstairs from Registration near the Salons.

- **Quiet Room Designated.** Bouck 210 (near the Fine Arts Salon) has been reserved as a quiet room for those needing a workspace or retreat for computer use. This is a room with a conference table suitable for computers and notebooks. This area is shared use, so no phone calls here, please.

- **Vending Machines Available.** A variety of nicely assorted vending machines are located in Wheeler and Bouck Halls. These will be stocked and operational during Convention week. Find snacks and drinks along the way as you move between sessions, meeting, exhibits and workshops.

- **Please bring your Howdy Party Mug to the Wednesday Campground Party.** Fellows & New Members, please bring the mug to the reception.

- **Bring Your Water Bottles!** Plan to use refilling stations on campus and at the Fairgrounds. The Convention will not be providing individual bottled water.

- **The NSS Helpline for the week is (773) 536-9321 [SPELEOWEB1].** This number will reach one of several staff members to answer any question at any time. By adding this number to your contacts list, you can easily reach the Convention staff or assist anyone needing to contact us.

- **Pre-Camps and Post-Camps.** The Niagara Frontier Grotto is hosting a [pre-camp in the Adirondacks](#), the Vermont Cavers Association is hosting a [pre-camp in the Green Mountain National Forest](#), and the Helderberg Hudson Grotto is hosting a [post-camp in Schoharie County](#). Sign up while spaces are available!



## Your Eating Cobleskill Guide For Convention Week

NSS Conventions are major events in the life of any caver. This year, we have so many local eateries and bars offering Convention-goers discounts and specials all week that the Convention will be an Eating Great Food Vacation as well. All the featured local food on offer is in addition to your Convention package including the Brooks Bar-B-Q at the Howdy Party and Nicole's Catering at the Banquet. There are also snacks at the Wednesday Campground Party and cheesecake and fresh fruit at the Fellows & New Members Reception. Come ready to attend the sessions, join the cave trips, take in the exhibits, workshops and vertical competitions. And most definitely remember to bring your appetites! Look for the "Welcome Cavers" signs posted in windows of all the conveniently nearby participating establishments each with Convention discounts or special features. **We will provide a detailed list of participating businesses with all that is on offer.**

It's also not too late to [get a discounted food plan for breakfasts and lunches](#) at the college as an add-on to your registration. This is a great value from a culinary school food service. Only limited walk-up service will be available, so get your food ticket in advance for guaranteed availability all week at a reduced price. One trip through the line will convince you of the convenience and quality of eating on campus when time for even the short trip to town is limited.

For those scheduled on a field trip on Sunday, we will have a sandwich lunch prepared for you by the college food service. If you have ANY food issues, be sure to let us know soon so we can accommodate your needs.

### **Monday Night Howdy Party Dinner by Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q:**

***With our meals to be charcoal-grilled right at the campground, Brooks will be ready to feed our hungry crowd. Brooks also served our 1991 NSS Convention!***

1/2 Chicken (Or Vegetarian: Veggie burger with marinated and grilled portabella mushrooms)  
Baked Potato With Sour Cream  
Green Salad  
Dinner Rolls With Butter  
Chocolate Chip Cookies  
Assorted Non Alcoholic Beverages, Self Serve, With Beer/Hard Cider On Tap

### **Serving Monday and Wednesday nights from our 9-tap refrigerated beer and cider trailer:**

*Oatbituary* - a dry and toasty stout, yet smooth  
*1911 Black Cherry Cider* - electrifyingly crisp with a slightly tart flavor  
*Frog Alley Brown* - a robust American style brown ale  
*Paradox Pilsner* - a delightful fusion of Czech and German brewing traditions  
*Common Root* IPA - a light bodied microbrew IPA  
*Michelob Ultra* - a light lager with a crisp, refreshing finish

## **Friday Night NSS Awards Banquet by Nicole's Catering:**

***This meal will be cooked onsite and served freshly prepared from Nicole's field kitchen brought to the fairgrounds from Albany for this event. Nicole's staff of 30+ will provide full support for our banquet. Nicole's Catering is the Capital District and Upstate New York's premiere off-premise full-service catering company.***

### Wine Table Service

1 red, 1 white

*Assorted Non Alcoholic Beverages - self serve*

*Rolls & Butter*

### Salad

Nicoles Classic Garden Salad - mixed greens, garden vegetables, balsamic vinaigrette

### Mains

Chicken Francese | GF | lightly battered, sautéed mushrooms, garlic, lemon butter, wine sauce, over spinach

Sausage, Peppers & Onions

### Pasta ideas

Penne alla Vodka | V | tomato cream sauce

Pesto Pasta | V | diced tomatoes, toasted pine nuts, grated Romano cheese

### Vegetable

Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Butternut Squash

### Dessert

Assorted Cookies & Treats - chef's selection may include:

chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal raisin, white chocolate macademia nut, shortbread cookie bars, raspberry linzer bars, lemon bars