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# *The Caving Courier of Cobleskill*



Monday, June 16, 2025

Submit material at <https://caves.org/convention/dailyrag/submissions/> by 4 p.m. daily. Or drop a written blurb in the box at Registration.

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## ***Message From the Co-chairs, Mike Warner and Ken Moore***

It is almost convention time and we are very excited to say **Welcome Back to Cobleskill!** The venue is ready, the campground is being readied, and the village is ready. And speaking of the village, be sure to look for the caver signs in windows for some fantastic discounts being offered! Yes, there will be \$2 bills available for use in town also. So, start out the week by saying “Hi” to the locals. If you are coming in for the weekend, the village is a 10-minute stroll from the campground.

But before you hit the town, you will want to go to the SUNY/Cobleskill campus to register for convention, which needs to be done before you go to the campground. There is lots of signage to guide you from the parking to registration. After you register, go by Speleobooks to get your \$2 bills as we mentioned. And do not forget to stop by and say to the Indiana folks who are putting on next year’s convention. You can register for next year starting Monday of this year’s convention. Afterwards it is off to the campground, just follow the signs. Please be aware that the route between the college and the campground is through neighborhoods. Remember there will be a shuttle during the week starting Monday morning.

And speaking of the campground, there are few rules to be aware of. Of course, the usual, no guns, fires, fireworks. A couple of house rules. You cannot park next to your tent; there will be flagged off areas for parking. If you go to OTR, you know the drill. The other rule is if you see a No Camping sign, please obey. It is because the State of New York says so. There is lots of space but not much shade, so bring some with you.

Now that you have set up camp, or found your hotel etc., had food, and are settling to ogle that beautiful guidebook and look through the program, you will see as usual there is a plethora of stuff to do, see, and hear throughout the week. Oh yeah, figure out what caves you want to do during the week. There are many NSS and Northeastern Cave Conservancy preserves to visit along with many others; just check in with the cave trip booth in the campground.

Well, that is some of the fringe information that will hopefully help you along and if you see someone with a Volunteer shirt, take a moment and thank them. We’re all excited to have our cave family coming to celebrate **A Lifetime of Caving!**

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## ***Interesting and Useful Bits of Convention Information***

### ***Convention Helpline***

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.

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### ***Campground Opens . . .***

For those preregistered for the week, the campground opens at 5 p.m. on Friday. We will have a list at the gate. Onsite registration opens at noon on Saturday, after which your name badge will be required for entry to the college and the campground.

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### ***Field Trip Departures***

The Adirondack Field Trip will depart from the campground at 7 a.m. The Geology Field Trip will depart from the Circle Drive at the College at 8 a.m.

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### ***Reuse Your Water Bottles***

Bring your water bottles! Plan to use the water refill stations on campus and at the fairgrounds. The convention will not be providing individual bottled water.

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### ***Meal Plan***

For those with meal tickets, the cafeteria will be open from for breakfast 7–9 a.m. and lunch 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Takeout is available. For those without meal tickets, walk up service will be available although capacity is limited.

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## **College Bookstore and Snacks**

The hours for the college store located near registration will be 8 a.m.–Noon, M–F. It will have trail mix, jerky, cheese, tuna packs, protein packs, sandwiches, and salads, plus college souvenirs. In addition, 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.

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## **Showers**

In addition to the many showers in the campground, there will be locker room showers available in Bouck Hall 7:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. daily.

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## **Transportation**

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 convenience 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 ride share from the campground for added convenience.

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## **Support the 2025 Convention Local Sponsors!**

Our local dining and shopping establishments have graciously offered the following discounts (<https://caves.org/2025-convention-local-sponsors>) to convention attendees. Please present your convention name badge at these merchants to receive the stated discount. (For 6/19–6/20, prior to onsite registration opening, this flyer will allow the discount.)

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## **Quiet Space to Work**

Bouck 210 (near the Fine Arts Salon) has been reserved as a quiet room for those needed 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.

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## **Online Schedule for Cell Phones**

Go to <https://talks.caving.dev/nss-convention-2025/schedule/> for the most up-to-date schedule. It'll work on a laptop but is stretched. It looks great on a cell phone. You can still carry around your printed program, but this site gives you changes that have been made recently. It also includes abstracts from the program for easy online viewing and day planning at the Convention without having to try to sift through the enormous program PDF on a mobile device or carrying the book around with you when you're out and about. This site is meant to be updated in real time with any changes that need to be made, be it to room assignments, talks being replaced by others, anxious speakers trying to change their abstracts, etc.

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## **Cave Trips**

Convention Cave Trip Coordinators Erik Nieman & Jacob Morris-Siegel have arranged an extensive selection of trips. The majority of caves requiring vertical will be pre-rigged courtesy of PMI which donated more than 1,400 feet of rope to make this possible. Be sure to visit Erik's cave trip headquarters in the campground to check out the trips.

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## **Trip Leaders Sought for Convention Cave Trips!**

We are still looking for cavers to lead horizontal and vertical trips in NY, MA, and VT.

Among the **vertical trips** still needed are:

**New York:** McFails—Both Halls Hole and Acks Shack trips. Acks Shack Through Trip; Balls Cave; Bensons Cave; and Ella Armstrong Cave

**Vermont:** Purgatory Pit and Red Mountain Pit

**Massachusetts:** MassHole

Horizontal caves also still need leaders in all 3 states. Are there horizontal caves you enjoy and want to show others?

We need your help to make this a successful week of caving during Convention. Please consider helping out. Please email Erik at [ewnieman@gmail.com](mailto:ewnieman@gmail.com) for more information or to lead a trip.

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## ***Our Goal is Safe Caving and a Safe Convention!***

Thank you all for joining us in the Northeast! We hope everyone has a fun and safe time this week, but of course issues may still come up that need support. Here's what you can do:

**Medical issues:** The first call for any major problem is 911; but for less serious concerns, there are medical volunteers at the marked building at the campground entrance, or find one of the convention staff and ask for help locating support. Jack Muese is the lead medical volunteer. The general Convention helpline number is 1-773-536-9321 (SPELEOWEB1).

**Cave safety and issues in caves:** Use teamwork and cave softly. *Speak up* if you feel unsure of a challenge or have concerns on a trip. Trips will likely have people with a range of different experience, and it's better to go slower or turn back sooner rather than push people beyond their comfort and capacity. Erik Nieman is in charge of trips; please let him know if any incidents or safety issues come up during the week. (<https://caves.org/ncrc/ncrc-course-descriptions-copy/>)

**Harassment, discomfort, or issues between people:** Please treat everyone with respect, practice consent in your interpersonal interactions, and know the NSS Anti-Harassment Policy (<https://caves.org/anti-harassment-policy/>). Always check for an enthusiastic yes—don't put the burden on someone to say "no."

If you find yourself wanting support with an issue, or just want to talk about it, the following people are volunteers who can talk it over with you confidentially, intervene to help educate and deescalate person(s) involved, or coordinate other responses as needed. You're welcome to talk with any of us, and you can ask for help finding one of us at Registration:

Elizabeth "Boof" Truchan, Emma Enos, Jim Minie, John Dunham, Leslie Hatfield, Morgan Ingalls, Mystik Miller, and Tally Sepiol

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### ***Waivers***

Please sign your convention and field trip waivers **before** you get to Registration! It will make the lines go faster.

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### ***Convention Merch Still Available***

It's still not too late to order guidebooks, shirts, patches, or pins. Add items to your registration now for convenient pick up at checkout. Any order placed will be combined with your existing registration! <https://caves.org/convention/2025-registration/>

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### ***Caver Co-Op***

What is the Caver Co-Op?

The Caver Co-Op provides an opportunity for NSS Convention attendees to buy and sell caving related items. You'll find the Caver Co-Op in the vendor area, and it's open to check in items on Sunday, with regular hours beginning Monday for sales and to check in additional merchandise. The Caver Co-Op charges fees on sales with any profit going to the NSS. The fee structure is set to encourage sellers to volunteer at the Caver Co-Op.

Please bring items to sell and, if possible, please volunteer at the Co-Op.

Find out more at: <https://sites.google.com/view/centralconnecticutgrotto/convention-caver-co-op>.

Hope to see you at the Caver Co-Op to volunteer, bring items to sell, and buy great merch.

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### ***SpeleoAuction***

Don't forget to bring your speleo-treasures to donate to the annual NSS Auction and Fundraiser. Donations of items that will interest cavers and sell competitively are encouraged. Vintage items such as NSS News and Bulletins prior to 1950 may be highly sought after. NSS News and grotto newsletters must be at least 40 years old. Artistic bat memorabilia may sell for some value as may carbide lamps, caving equipment, old commercial cave souvenirs, cave-related jewelry, and artwork. If it is of interest to you it may be of interest to someone else.

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### ***NSS Convention Biking***

<https://sites.google.com/view/centralconnecticutgrotto/convention-biking>

The greater convention area has miles of biking on the Erie Canalway Trail. On the above website you'll find guides to a few of the many half- to full-day rides along the canal, which are almost entirely

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off-road on paved paths. You'll also find a route for biking between the Cobleskill Fairgrounds and the SUNY campus.

**Next Week's Schedule** (Typically, the CCC schedule is more accurate than the printed program.)

- Sun-Fri Noon: Vendors @ Bouck gym**
- Sun-Fri Noon: Caver Co-Op (Consignment Sales) @ Bouck Gym**
- M-T-W: Sketching contest (Bensons Cave )**
- M-Th: Video Kiosk @ Unity Center**
- All Week: NSS Bookstore @ Bouck Gym**
- All Week: Cartographic Salon @ Unity Hall**
- All Week: Cave Ballad Listening Kiosk @ Unity Center**
- All Week: CaveSim @ across from Bouck Hall**
- All Week: Conservancy and Nonprofit Displays @ Bouck Gym**
- All Week: Fine Arts Salon @ Unity Center**
- All Week: Graphic Arts Salon @ Unity Center**
- All Week: JSS, Taste of NY @ Fairgrounds**
- All Week: Quiet Room @ Bouck 210 Meeting Room**
- All Week: Symbolic Emblems Salon @ Unity Center**
- All Week: T-Shirt Salon @ Unity Center**

5/29/2025 NSS 2025 CONVENTION SCHEDULE															
	MONDAY			TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY			FRIDAY		
	Event	Time	Where	Event	Time	Where	Event	Time	Where	Event	Time	Where	Event	Time	Where
Morning (9:00- Noon)	Opening Ceremony	8:00-8:30	Main Entrance Bouck	Yoga	8:00-9:00	Bouck Ballroom	Introduction of Exploration Biogeology Session	9:00-12:10	Bouck Aud	Yoga	8:00-9:00	Bouck Ballroom	Caving in Vietnam - Lang Son Geopark	9:00-noon	Bouck Aud
	Speleology for Cavers	8:30-noon	Wheeler 130	US Exploration	9:00-noon	Bouck Auditorium	NSS Trustees Meeting (open)	9:00-noon	Wheeler 130	Geology and Geography	9:00-12:05	Bouck Auditorium	Video Salon Viewing	9:00-noon	Wheeler 100
	BOG Open Meeting	9:00-noon	Upper Champlin	Cave Conservation & Management	9:00-noon	Wheeler 100	Speleothem Repair Workshop Part II	9:00-noon	Wheeler 130	NSS Awards Committee	9:00-10:00 open 10:00-11:00 closed	Wheeler 200	Fine Art Salon Critique	9:00-10:00	Unity Ctr.
	NCRCA Annual Meeting	9:00-noon	Wheeler 215	Speleothem Repair Workshop	9:00-noon	Wheeler 205	Cave Diving Section Vertical Climbing Contest	9:00-noon	Wheeler 205	Spelean History	9:00-noon	Wheeler 205	Cave Writers Workshop	9:00-noon	Wheeler 209
Lunch (Noon 1:00)	Introduction to Sketching in Cave Digital and Paper	9:00-noon	Wheeler 204 (digital) 205 (Paper)	Cave's Against Sexual Harassment	9:00-noon	Wheeler 215	Cave Diving Section Vertical Climbing Contest	9:00-noon	Field House	NPS Federal Cave & Karst Meeting (closed)	9:00-noon	Wheeler 214	NPS Trustees Meeting (closed)	9:00-noon	Wheeler 130
	Book Signing by Roger Brucker	noon-1:00	Vendors area	Discover Vertical Caving	9:00-noon	Field House	Photo Workshop	9:00-noon	In Cave				BOG Meeting	9:00-noon	Upper Champlin
Afternoon (1:00-5:00)	Speleology Class	noon-1:00	Wheeler 130	Luminary Speaker - Jim Piszczewicz	12:30-1:30	Bouck Aud	Luminary Speaker: Bruce Smith	12:30-1:30	Bouck Aud	Luminary Speaker: Bob Adde	12:30-1:30	Bouck Aud	Cartographic Salon Critique	10:00-noon	Unity Hallway
	Communications & Electronic Lunch	12:30-2:00	Wheeler 203	Conservation & Science Division Meeting	noon-1:00	Wheeler 100	Book Signing by Roger Brucker	noon-1:00	Vendors area	Vertical Section Lunch/Business Mtg	noon-1:00	Colby	Photo Salon Critique	10:00-noon	Wheeler 203
	BOG Lunch (Closed)	noon-2:00	Upper Champlin						NCKMS Steering Committee	noon-1:30	Wheeler 204	Cave Ballad Salon Critique	10:00-noon	Unity Ctr.	
	Fine Arts Salon Opening	noon-2:00	Unity Ctr.	Cave Conservation & Management	1:00-5:00	Wheeler 100	Vertical Climbing Contest	noon-5:00	Field House				Arts and Letters Lunch	noon-1:00	Colby
Evening	Cave Conservancy Roundtable	1:00-4:00	Wheeler 210	Discover Vertical Caving	1:00-5:00	Field House	Photo Workshop	noon-5:00	In Cave	Cave Diving Exploration	1:00-5:00	Wheeler 203	Survey and Cartography	noon-1:00	Upper Champlin
	Vertical Training Commission (VTC)	1:00-4:00	Wheeler 209	Stop the Bleed	2:00-4:00	Wheeler 213	Planned Diving	1:00-3:00	Wheeler 130	Geology and Geography Meeting and Session	1:30-5:00	Bouck Aud.	Collegiate Grotto Challenges and Solutions	1:30-3:00	Wheeler 230
	Speleology for Cavers	1:00-5:00	Wheeler 130	US Exploration	2:00-5:00	Bouck Aud.	International Exploration	1:30-5:10	Bouck Aud.	Stop the Bleed	2:00-4:00	Wheeler 213	Survey & Cartography Session	1:00-5:00	Bouck Aud.
	In Cave sketching - paper & Digital	1:00-5:00	in cave	Convention Planning	2:00-5:00	Wheeler 130	Stop the Bleed	2:00-4:00	Wheeler 213	Convention Debrief	2:00-5:00	Wheeler 215	BOG Meeting	1-5:00	Upper Champlin
	Communications & Electronic Session	2:00-5:00	Wheeler 203				Congress of Grottos	2:00-5:00	Warner 120	NSS Preserver & Acquisitions	2:00-5:00	Wheeler 130			
	BOG Meeting (Closed)	2:00-5:00	Upper Champlin				Biogeology Session	2:00-5:30	Wheeler 100	Cave Photography Session	2:00-5:00	Wheeler 100			
Howdy Party Dinner	taps open at 5:30, dinner 6:30 party - midnight	Fairgrounds	Follows- New Members Reception	6:00-8:30	Bouck Ballroom	NSS Auction	7:00 start	Bouck Auditorium	Photo Salon Short Show/Salon Awards	5:30-7:00	Bouck Auditorium	NSS Awards Banquet	Seating: 5:30 Food Service: 6:00 Awards: 7:30-9:30	Fairgrounds	
			Open Mic	8:00 start	Fairgrounds	Campground Party	taps open 7:00 Band 8:00-11:00	Fairgrounds	Full Photo Salon/Salon Awards	7:30-10:00	Bouck Auditorium	Campground Party	9:30 Midnight	Fairgrounds	
			Featured Speaker: Robbie Stone's Life as a Cave Photographer: A Journey into the Depths of the Earth	9:00	Bouck Auditorium				Cave Story Telling Contest	10:00-Midnight	Fairgrounds				

All week: Cave Sim / across from Bouck Hall  
 M-T-W: Sketching contest (Bensons Cave )  
 All Week: Quiet Room / Bouck 210 Meeting Rm.  
 All Week: JSS - Taste of NY / Fairgrounds  
 All week: Conservancy and Non Profit Displays Bouck Gym

M noon-Fri: Fine Arts Salon / Unity Ctr.  
 All week: T-Shirt Salon / Unity Ctr.  
 All week: Graphic Arts Salon / Unity Ctr.  
 All week: Symbolic Emblems Salon / Unity Ctr.  
 All week: Cartographic Salon / Unity Hall  
 All Week: Ballad Listening Kiosk / Unity Ctr.  
 M-Th: Video Kiosk/Unity Ctr.

All Week: NSS Book store / Bouck gym  
 All Week: Caver Co-Op (Consignment Sales) / Bouck gym  
 M-Fri noon: Vendors / Bouck gym

**Announcements and Personals**

Hey, you made it this far! Next Monday's issue *could* contain announcements and personal ads here, but only if you submit them at <https://caves.org/convention/dailyrag/submissions/>. There will also be a submission box at Registration. Please be sure to have your submissions in by 3 p.m. daily Sunday through Thursday.

To read past issues of the 2025 *The Caving Courier of Cobleskill*, go to <https://caves.org/convention/dailyrag/>

