

The Speleo Dealeo

NSS Convention Daily Rag

Wednesday July 8th, 2026



OHIO RIVER VALLEY
CORYDON, INDIANA
JULY 6-10

24/7 Helpline for Urgent Issues:
"SPELEOWEB-1" or (773) 536-9321

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

NSS Auction

7:00pm Start

Campground Party at the
Fairgrounds

9:00-Midnight

Muchos Garcias

Show starts at 9pm



Muchos Garcias

HOURS

ALL TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Registration

7am - 5pm

Vendors

8am - 8pm

Daily Shuttle

7am-9am, 11am-1pm,
3pm-6pm

Submit entries to: **dailyrag1@gmail.com** by 7pm daily.
Or drop a legibly written blurb in the Daily Rag submission
box at Registration.



Event	Time	Where
Coffee & Karst	8:00-9:00	Registration Hallway
International Exploration	9:00-Noon	Auditorium
Biospeleology	8:00-12:30	205
Speleothen Repair Workshop Part 2	9:00-Noon	In-Cave
Cave Diggin Section	9:00-Noon	254
Discover Vertical Caving	9:00-12:30	100
Caving & Culture	9:00-Noon	102
NPS Cave Managers Meeting	9:00-Noon	226
Luminary Speaker: Gordon Smith	12:30-1:30	Auditorium
International Exploration	2:00-5:00	Auditorium
Congress of Grottos	2:00-5:00	102
Speleophilatelic Section	1:00-2:00	110
Pottery Demonstration by Peter Jones	1:00-3:00	283
Stargazer Float Trip: Departing Cave Country Canoes	5:00-7:00	See Program Guide
NSS Auction	7:00 Start	Auditorium
Campground Party/ Music: Muchos Garcias	9:00 Start	Fairgrounds

Breakfast

7:30-9am ✦ \$10 without meal pass

Entree (1)	Sausage Egg Cheese Bagel Sandwich
Protein (1)	Yogurt Cup
Fruit (1)	Fruit Mix
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Allergen Friendly

Entree (1)	Cereal Donut
Protein (1)	Almond Milk Yogurt
Fruit (1)	Fruit Mix
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Lunch

11am - 1pm ✦ \$15 without meal pass

Entree (1)	Sloppy Joe Sandwich Egg Salad Sandwich Chicken Salad Sandwich Kale Salad
Side (3)	Soup Side Salad Fresh Fruit
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Allergen Friendly

Entree (1)	Vegan Kale Salad Egg Salad Sandwhich Chicken Salad Sandwhich
Protein (3)	Soup Salad Fresh Fruit
Beverage (1)	Beverage

WEATHER UPDATES

High 86 - Low 70

Moderate rain in the
early evening



Volunteer Opportunities

The NSS Convention is 100% volunteer run and we need your help! Stop by the volunteer table near registration to see how you can help out!

For every shift you work each day, your name will be entered into a Raffle to win various donated items. The winner will be annouced the next day in the Daily Rag. Scan the QR Code or stop by Registration to sign up.



Volunteer Raffle Winners

Mike VanNote &
Juliet Shuck

Pick up your prize at Registration!

SCHEDULE UPDATES

- Storrick's presentation "Vertical Caving: My heretical opinions" has been cancelled. Instead, Jerin Mandel will be moving their presentation "Fun and Sketchy Things to Do with Rappel Devices" up to 10:10-10:30 AM to fill the slot.
- Auction moved to auditorium
- NPS Managers Meeting moved from Room #112 to Room #226
- Karst Hydrology Field Trip - Leaving from Fairgrounds at 9am on Thursday morning.



LUMINARY SPEAKER

Gordon L. Smith, NSS 8847 CL, F, H
Sixty-Seven Years in the Dark –
And Counting . . .

Gordan has a long history of caving, dating all the way back to the 1950s. Throughout his many years spent underground, he has gained many fascinating stories.

Gordon was the operator of Marengo Caverns and Wyandotte Caverns in Indiana and now is the managing partner of Diamond Caverns in Kentucky and The National Cave Museum. He serves on the board of Cumberland Caverns and has served as president of the National Show Caves Association. He was a board member of the National Speleological Foundation for 42 years. Gordon is a member of the Cave Research Foundation where he was expedition leader during the Mammoth-Flint Ridge connection. He also founded Cave Country Canoes in Milltown, Indiana, and Tourist Information Service. He is a fellow of the society and the recipient of the 2025 NSS Honorary Member award.

FAQ



SKETCHING CONTEST EXTENDED

To allow more sketchers to participate, the sketching contest has been extended to include Wednesday - all day from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Wolfe Cave is an easy horizontal cave only 15 - 20 minutes from convention.

Share your sketching style with us! Results/ discussion/ PRIZES Thursday from 3:00-4:00 pm.





CAVER COLUMN



LOST & FOUND ALERTS

If you have found/lost any items, books, bags, wallets, anything -- please know there is a Lost & Found next to the VOLUNTEER desk next to the Cafeteria at the High School and the Medical Station at the Fairgrounds.



CARPOOL PLANNING

Use this QR code to coordinate rides with other convention goers (if you have extra seats available or are seeking to carpool).



JSS TRIP WITH CAVE COUNTRY CANOES

Special thanks to Cave Country Canoes for providing a great time, to Angela Matias for being an amazing co runner for JSS, to Tor for the help and all the wonderful volunteers and parents for stepping up to assist us, and to Chris Landis for putting together an amazing program for us to follow!



STONEWALL CAVERS

Hello, everyone! We will have our annual grotto meeting and dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM at FISTFUL Craft Restaurant & Brewery. Hope to see you there!

OUTSTANDING STITCHES GEAR REPAIR

Does your pack or suit need some love (repair)? Bring your clean and dry caving gear for repairs to the Out Standing Stitches booth in the vendor area. We have a sewing machine on site and will be doing repairs all week!

BOOK SIGNING

Book signing outside of the NSS bookstore vendor booth with Author David Hughes on Thursday from 11:30 - 1:00.

WHAT'S JSS DOING TODAY?

8am - Welcome and Games

10am - Bug Bingo & "Show me an animal" game

12pm - Lunch

1pm - Bus departs for Indiana Caverns in Corydon



CAVER COLUMN



The extra food we had from the howdy party, about 15 serving trays, was donated to a group called Uplift Them Inc. They are a local homeless support group and all our extra food went to feed people in need in the surrounding counties.

We will do the same for any extras from the banquet on Friday.

SCCI NEWS - ASK US ABOUT MILL HOLE!

SCCi recently added Mill Hole Preserve to our growing network of protected caves. Stop by the booth to learn more about this exciting acquisition, what makes the property special, and what it means for cave conservation in the Southeast.

While you're there, pick up some SCCi merchandise, grab a piece of candy, and chat with our volunteers. We'd love to see you!

HORIZONTAL SECTION MEETING & BEER SWAP

Join us at 8pm for the Horizontal Section Meeting and Beer Swap at VPI in noisy camping. We will discuss progress of the book "Alpine Crawling Techniques" then will host a crawling contest with a prize of a 300 ft webbing spool. During the meeting we will also have a beer swap.

NSS HEADQUARTERS AND A CAVE AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

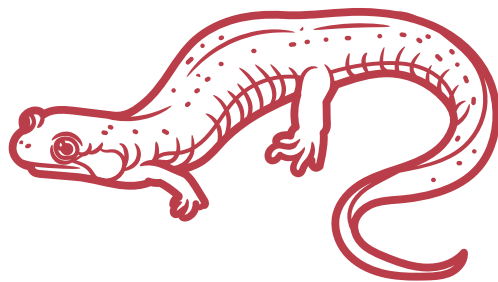
There is an opportunity for the NSS to transform large spaces at the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama, into a Cave and Natural History Museum in partnership with museum experts, inspired by past leaders of the NSS with visions of physical space for a Museum of Speleology. We are soliciting feedback from members regarding their interest in this opportunity.

The QR code and link - <https://forms.gle/UkG1VsJkGoJFdGyy5> - will take you to more information and a feedback form. The information will help NSS leaders plan a space that is aligned to the NSS mission, as well as welcoming and appealing to members and the public, today and long into the future.



COLLECTIVE PHOTO DRIVE FOLDER

Please add any photos you'd like to share to this google drive folder! Keep it PG and dont be weird.



FOOD TRUCK ON SITE

There will be a food truck at the fairgrounds under the grand stands from Tuesday until 5.30 pm on Thursday.

SAFETY UPDATE

Please continue to stay hydrated this week! Make sure to get your potassium, magnesium, and sodium.

CAVER COLUMN

CaveSim needs your help

What we do: We teach over 20,000 people each year about cave conservation, exploration, and science. Kids and adults love exploring. They learn to love caves. Most participants will never enter a wild cave, but we're building generations of cave conservation advocates.



Students at a CaveSim SRT demo in Oklahoma



Left: a veteran from the Afghan War says exploring CaveSim helped him overcome PTSD.



3 generations explore in TX

The problem: Our truck has 320,000 miles and just had major engine failure. We're using a rental truck. The new trailer is bigger. A heavier-duty truck is needed. CaveSim does ~100 days of events per year in 8-12 states!

The solution: A new truck to continue our educational work effectively and safely. A ¾ or 1-ton diesel w/ <20k miles. Such a truck is \$60,000-\$85,000.

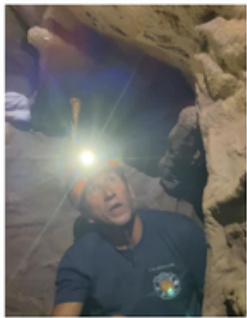
Why we need your help: CaveSim relies on cavers. Generous cavers helped buy trailers for the mobile caves. Cavers fund education each year at schools, museums, libraries, and Convention. We need your help because doing the education is costly, and we can do far more if you help CaveSim get a new truck.

How to help: Mail a check to CaveSim at: 13 Kreg Ln., Manitou Springs, CO, 80829 (not tax deductible). Or mail a check to the Cave Research Foundation (memo: "for CaveSim") at: CRF Treasurer, Box 600367, Dallas, TX 75360 (tax deductible). Or donate via credit or debit card at www.cavesim.com/support. Let us know if you want to be recognized or anonymous.

Questions? Contact Dave: 914-330-7824; jacksondmit@cavesim.com



cavesim.com/support



Firefighter training in CaveSim Trailer3, 5/15/26



High school students enthralled by bat skeletal morphology



Joyfully exploring CaveSim Trailer1 (above) in 2018 and Trailer3 (below) in 2025



Dave fixing oil leaks, 6/28/2026. Two repairs held, but total engine failure followed. The truck is returning to CO on a flatbed. We finished 31 days of outreach in California and drove to NSSCON with a rental truck.

Anyone looking for tax efficient contributions, especially with RMD or QCD, can donate through Cave Research Foundation by specifying CaveSim.

LAST DAY FOR CAVER'S CHOICE VOTE AT THE LIBRARY

Don't forget to come by the library on Wednesday to vote for your favorite pieces in the Fine Arts, Graphic Arts, Symbolic Emblems, and T-Shirts categories.

WANT TO PRESENT TO NEW ZEALAND CAVERS?

The New Zealand "Far Out Grotto" (not of the NSS) is seeking speakers and presentors for their monthly grotto meetings, people can speak about their passions, american bureauracracy, science, anything really. Pre-recorded is fine too.

Our (beta) website:

<https://beta.fog.org.nz>

Contact info form:

<https://forms.gle/y8mZlWE38YGtyH986>

JOANNE AND STEVE'S FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS IN CORYDON, INDIANA

The first is 1816 Restaurant in downtown Corydon at 100 East Chestnut Street. This is an Asian/Southern fusion restaurant. Our lunch crew enjoyed Shrimp Tikka Masala, Cauliflower Grits, and Yockamein. We didn't think the Fried Green Tomatoes were the comfort food we expected from our TAG roots. Still, the restaurant rated Excellent for taste and quality. It was pricey.

The next restaurant that we visited was Abruzzo's Italian Foods and Confections. This is at 117 W. Walnut Street in Corydon. We had Lemon Garlic Pasta w/Chicken, and an Italian Sausage Sandwich. They were both tasty and excellent. The restaurant also displays its fresh pastries. We could not resist the chocolate-dipped cannoli and the cheesecake. The cannoli was well-made with fresh ingredients and a made-to-order filling. The New York-style cheesecake was superb and included chocolate peanut butter cups. With our dessert, we also ordered coffee. This coffee is the best that we've had in Corydon. The price was moderate. Don't forget the 10% Friends and Family coupon in your Convention packet!

2026 NSS Convention Sponsors

Diamond Tier - \$5,000+ Value



Platinum Tier - \$2,500+ Value



Gold Tier - \$1,000+ Value



Silver Tier - \$500+ Value



Bronze Tier - \$250+ Value



SHOWCAVE DISCOUNTS

INDIANA CAVERNS

Early Bird Discounted Tours

\$15/adult and \$9/children (ages 4-12 yrs)
Arrive at 8 am to register - tours leave at 8:30 am.

Regular Hours Discounted Tours

\$20/adult and \$12/children (ages 4-12 yrs)
The Bat Chaser ride = \$11
The Plunge = \$11

SQUIRE BOONE CAVERNS

Half price tickets for Convention attendees

MARENGO CAVE

Half price tickets for Convention attendees

BLUESPRING CAVERNS

Tour Tickets = \$10/adult and \$5 youth
(up to age 15)

Make sure you are
wearing your badge!

MAMMOTH CAVE MAP



Don't miss out on the
Mammoth Cave map in
the Windell Ag building at
the fairgrounds.