

NSS Strategic Plan 2023-2028

This document, developed by the strategic planning committee and approved by the NSS BOG, provides a framework for developing a longer-term strategic plan. By creating a set of three to five-year goals and achieving those goals, this document aims to be a foundation for a culture of reflection, review, revision, and strategic thinking that is required to move the Society forward.

NSS Mission

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is dedicated to the protection of caves and their natural contents through science, conservation, ownership, stewardship, public education, and promoting responsible cave exploration and fellowship among those interested in caves.

NSS Vision

The NSS will be a home for cavers of all backgrounds and the voice for the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of caves and karst.

NSS 2023 - 2028 Strategic Goals

Timeline: Calendar Year 2023 - 2028

Fellowship

Goals:

- ❖ Hire an Executive Director
- ❖ Increase NSS visibility
- ❖ Create a welcome environment for cave enthusiasts of all backgrounds
 - Engage and serve a wider audience
 - Promote a diverse and inclusive culture
 - Provide an avenue for equitable recreational cave access
- ❖ Optimize current volunteer program and address burnout
- ❖ Expand fundraising efforts and increase annual membership retention
- ❖ Expand communication of ongoing fellowship efforts to improve member retention

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Communication and Education

Goals:

- ❖ Educate the public about the importance of protecting caves and karst
- ❖ Publish an annual report to the membership to increase transparency of leadership
- ❖ Increase efforts to communicate cave and karst research findings to NSS members and the public
- ❖ Expand communication with Internal Organizations
- ❖ Support trainings and programs that promote responsible caving, best practices, and cave safety (including general caving techniques, vertical caving skills, cave rescue, and conservation and restoration techniques)

Access and Conservation

Goals:

- ❖ Advocate for conservation-minded cave access in partnership with public and private landowners
- ❖ Increase funding and advocacy for acquisition and conservation of caves and karst
- ❖ Promote effective cave and karst resource management based on research findings and best management practices
 - Be a leader in defining appropriate cave access from a conservation standpoint
 - Be a partner for land managers and conservation organizations

Scientific Study and Exploration

Goals:

- ❖ Expand funding opportunities for research and exploration
- ❖ Support exploration and research efforts by being a voice for members with land managers and land owners