

CONSERVATION POLICY

Caves have scientific, recreational and scenic values that are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism. Once these values are gone, they cannot be recovered, and the responsibility for protecting caves must be assumed by those who study and enjoy them.

It is the intention of the Society to work for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for encouraging self-discipline among cavers, educating and researching the causes and prevention of cave damage, and encouraging co-operation with other groups similarly dedicated to conservation of natural areas.

All contents of a cave – speleothems, life and loose deposits – are significant for its enjoyment and interpretation. Therefore, caving participants should provide means for the removal of waste; limit marking to a few, small and removable signs as they are needed for surveys; and, especially, exercise extreme care not to accidentally break or soil speleothems, disturb life forms or unnecessarily increase the number of disfiguring paths through and area.

Scientific collection is professional, selective, and minimal. The collecting of mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead specimens, is never justified, as it encourages others to collect and destroy the interest of the cave.

The Society encourages projects such as establishing cave preserves, placing entrance gates where appropriate, opposing the sale of speleothems, supporting effective protective measures, cleaning and restoring over-used caves, cooperating with private cave owners by providing them knowledge about their cave and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits and encouraging commercial cave owners to make use of their opportunity to aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

The Society is opposed to the publication of the locations of caves, other than where commercially developed, due to the high probability of future vandalism. The Society will not send detailed location information to parties whose stand on cave conservation is not known to the membership.

It is the duty of every Society member to take personal responsibility for spreading a consciousness of the problem dealing with cave conservation to each and every potential user of caves. Without this, beauty and value of our caves will not remain with us very long.

RELEASE OF RESPONSIBILITY

I, the Undersigned, hereby request permission to participate in cave exploration or survey trips, and field trips for whatever other purpose, conducted by the WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, its agents, officers, and members. I know the risks and dangers involved in such activities and that unanticipated and unexpected dangers may arise during such activities.

In consideration of the permission granted to me to participate in the above stated activities, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, administrators and assigns, release and discharge the operator and sponsor of the activities, the WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, its agents, officers, and members, and all other participants in the stated activities of and from all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action of any sort, for injury sustained to my person and/or property during my participation in the stated activities due to negligence or any other fault.

STRIKE INAPPLICABLE STATEMENT

1. I represent and certify that my true age is 18 years or older.
2. I am under the age of 18 years and I represent and certify that I have the permission of my parents and/or guardians, evidenced by their signatures hereunder, to participate in the stated activities, and that they have full knowledge thereof.

I certify that my attendance and participation of the stated activities is voluntary.

I have read and understand the foregoing request and release.

In witness whereof, I have executed the request and release at

(city)

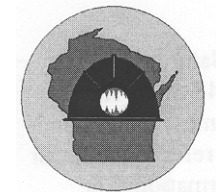
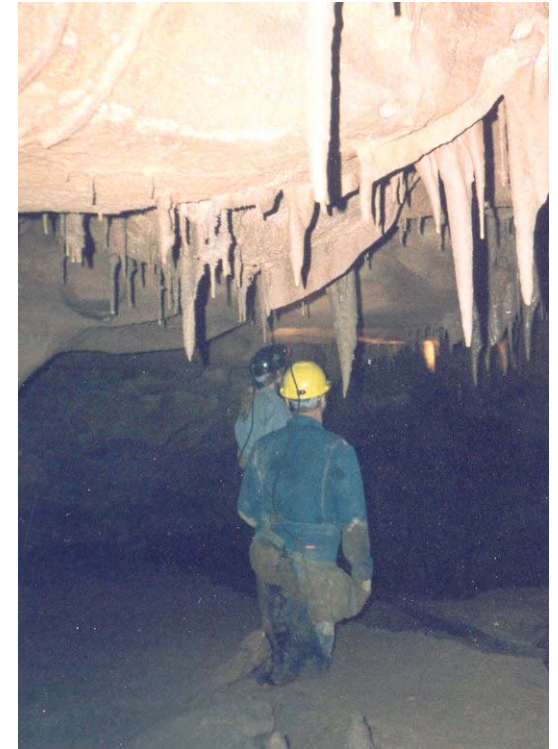
on _____ 20 ____

(parent or guardian)

(parent or guardian)

(Your signature)

WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



THE WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Wisconsin Speleological Society was founded in 1960, and became a chapter of the National Speleological Society in 1961. It is sponsored by the Wisconsin geological and Natural History Survey, the University Extension (Madison), and is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

PURPOSE

- 1 The discovery and/or rediscovery of the locations of caves in Wisconsin.
- 2 The exploration of caves, and in particular, caves in Wisconsin.
- 3 The protection and preservation of caves, and in particular, caves in Wisconsin.
- 4 The systematic collection and recording of information on Wisconsin caves, including all observable facet of geology, biology, zoology, anthropology, speleology and history, in a form worthy of publication.
- 5 The periodic publication of information on caves, exclusive of locations, to include information gathered on Wisconsin caves, trip reports, and articles by members or from outside contributors.
- 6 The exchange of information related to caves with other organized speleological groups.
- 7 The expansion of the knowledge of the members of the Society in subjects related to speleology through discussions, lectures, and visual aids.

Meetings

The WSS usually meets at 11:00A.M. on the 3rd Saturday of every Month at Ledge View Nature Center at W2348 Short Rd. Chilton, Wisconsin, 53014. This schedule sometimes changes, and WSS meetings are held at other locations. Please refer to the latest issue of The Hollow Earth News for updated information. The Madison Chapter of the WSS normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each Month at 7:00 at the Middleton Library in Middleton, Wisconsin, unless otherwise noted. Visitors and guests are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY

The Society maintains a library of cave information and maps, and copies of publications exchanged with other caving groups. This information is available upon request.

WISCONSIN CAVE SURVEY

The Wisconsin Cave Survey consists of the systematic county-by-county collection of descriptions, maps and general information related to caves in Wisconsin. It is conducted by members of the Society and all may participate

CAVE TRIPS & OTHER EVENTS

Cave trips and other events open to the general membership are held as announced.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: The Hollow Earth News

The Hollow Earth News, Official Newsletter of the Wisconsin Speleological Society, a magazine by cavers for cavers, is published monthly and contains meeting notices, special announcements, general trip reports and news of all the latest discoveries. It is included in Society membership and is not available separately.

The Wisconsin Speleologist

The Wisconsin Speleologist includes articles on scientific and technical subjects, the history of caves, trips that yield unique and valuable information about caves, caving activities in the U.S. and abroad, and interesting features. It is included in Society membership, or separate subscriptions may be obtained. Single issues can also be purchased.

HODAG HUNT

Each year in the fall the Society sponsors a mini-convention called a Hodag Hunt for cavers in Wisconsin and the surrounding states. A Hodag is a mythical creature found in caves, and possesses five legs and three eyes. A replica of a Hodag is placed in one of the caves in the area and whoever finds it receives a valuable prize.

The three-day convention features cave trips, informal slide shows, Saturday night banquet, featured speaker, and numerous opportunities to socialize with friends, both new and old.

MEMBERSHIP AND ANNUAL DUES

Annual membership in the WSS is based on how you would like to receive our newsletter. The fees are as follows: Electronic version emailed to you will be \$15.00 per individual and \$18.00 per family. The mailed version will be \$20 per individual and \$25 per family. The WSS Membership Year begins on June 1st and ends on May 31st of the following year. If you join other than in June, please prorate, divide total by number of months left until May and pay accordingly, so that your membership ends in May: Include your Email Address, NSS number and any information that you want in the WSS database and printed in the annual Membership List. Send remittance and changes of address to:

Wisconsin Speleological Society
S. 9740 Exchange Road
Prairie du Sac WI 53578

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Are you an NSS member? ____ Number _____

Have you been a member of any other caving organization? _____
(Name of Organization)

If a student, what is your permanent home address? _____

I am familiar with the purposes and policies of the Wisconsin Speleological Society and am in support thereof and hereby apply for the following membership:

REGULAR _____ FAMILY _____

EMAIL VERSION _____ MAILED VERSION _____

(Applicant's Signature)

Please read and sign the Release on the other side

(cut off this section and return with your remittance)