

## Join the NSS!

Join thousands of others who share a love of caves and caving and a desire to protect the underground wilderness for future generations.

- Go caving safely and responsibly, and learn techniques for exploring even the most challenging cave systems.
- Help protect caves from damage.
- Meet other cavers, share information, and enjoy the fellowship of those with similar interests.
- Keep abreast of cave discoveries and advances in equipment, techniques, and speleology.
- Help keep caves accessible to cavers.
- Support the Society's programs that help to conserve, protect, and study caves, karst, and cave environments, as well as the animals that live within them.

NSS members understand that the future of caves and karst depends on the strength that comes from many individuals working together, and we want to be a part of it.

## Become an NSS member today!

- Receive the monthly *NSS News*, the annual *Members Manual*, the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*, and *American Caving Accidents*.
- Attend NSS Conventions and regional caver events.
- Join a grotto (local chapter) and NSS Sections, such as Cave Diving, Vertical, Video, Cartography, Cave Geology and Geography, Conservation, Biology, and Communications and Electronics.
- Receive discounts at the NSS Bookstore.

Join securely online: [www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)

The NSS is the largest organization in the world dedicated to protecting, conserving, exploring, and studying caves.



Photo by Bob Biddix

**Cave Safely:** The best way to begin caving is to join a local NSS grotto. Undeveloped ("wild") caves should be entered only with experienced cavers, and with the proper training and equipment.

**Cave Softly:** Take only pictures, leave only footprints, kill only time. Avoid caves in the winter where bats hibernate.

**Be Aware:** White-nose syndrome is killing our bats. Visit: [www.caves.org/wns](http://www.caves.org/wns)

With more than 10,000 members and 200 grottos, the National Speleological Society does more than any other organization to study, explore, and conserve cave and karst resources; protect access to caves; encourage responsible management of caves and their unique environments; and promote responsible caving.

For more information about the NSS and caving and to find a grotto (chapter) near you, visit: [www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)

Download or order brochures on caving: [www.caves.org/brochure](http://www.caves.org/brochure)

Visit the NSS Bookstore for an extensive inventory of books about caves, speleology, and caving: [www.nssbookstore.org](http://www.nssbookstore.org)



## National Speleological Society

2813 Cave Avenue  
Huntsville, Alabama 35810-4431  
Telephone: (256) 852-1300  
Fax: (256) 851-9241  
E-mail: [nss@caves.org](mailto:nss@caves.org)  
[www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)

The NSS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

Produced by Cheryl Jones and Mike Dale



# National Speleological Society



Photo by Alan Cressler



Photo by Bob Biddix



Photo by Sabrina Simon



Photo by Michael Pugliese



Photo by Jansen Cardy

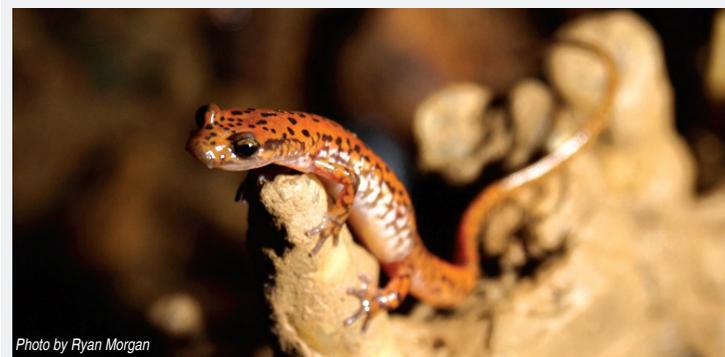


Photo by Ryan Morgan

we explore

we study

we protect

## Explore

- For 70 years, the National Speleological Society (NSS) has led the way in exploring and mapping caves.
- America's largest, deepest, and most famous caves were explored by NSS members, and they find new caves continually.
- The NSS community developed the specialized equipment and techniques necessary to explore even the most challenging caves safely.
- We have taught techniques for caving safety and rescue to generations of cavers, youth groups, and first responders.
- NSS grant programs support expeditions to U.S. and foreign caves.
- NSS membership provides the world's largest fellowship and exploration network for cavers.

## Study

- The NSS has unmatched knowledge of caves, karst, and groundwater issues.
- The country's leading speleologists and karst hydrologists belong to the NSS.
- NSS members collect a wealth of cave data, critical for landowners, land use planners, scientists, and state and federal agencies.
- NSS grant programs support speleological research.
- We publish the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*, the world's most respected cave science periodical.
- The NSS owns the largest speleological library.
- We publish cave-related books and the monthly *NSS News*.
- The annual NSS Convention is the nation's largest forum for speleology, caving, and caver fellowship.

## Protect

- The NSS has a rich heritage of advocating and teaching cave conservation, and preserving cave access.
- We have been the leader in protecting caves, their environments, and the animals that live in them.
- NSS grant programs support conservation efforts, cave acquisitions, and education programs.
- NSS Nature Preserves protect 22 notable caves.
- NSS members assist landowners, agencies, and nonprofits in managing their caves.
- The NSS is affiliated with numerous science and conservation organizations and federal agencies, with which we share cave and karst expertise.
- Since the discovery of white-nose syndrome (WNS), the NSS has been the vanguard in addressing this devastating bat disease and providing research grants.



For more information about the NSS and caving, and to find a grotto (chapter) near you, visit: [www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)