

DC Grotto Membership Application

Instructions: Please read the National Speleological Society and DC Grotto conservation policies below. If you agree to abide by those policies, then print out and complete the application on the next page. Mail the signed form and check (payable to "DC Grotto") to: DC Grotto, c/o Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St, Laurel MD 20707. Or you can pay using a PayPal account by following the instructions on the next page.

National Speleological Society

Policy for Cave Conservation

(Approved by the NSS Board of Governors 12/28/1960)

The National Speleological Society believes: That caves have unique scientific, recreational, and scenic values; That these values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism; That these values, once gone, cannot be recovered; and That the responsibility for protecting caves must be assumed by those who study and enjoy them.

Accordingly, the intention of the Society is to work for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for the encouragement of self-discipline among cavers, education and research concerning the causes and prevention of cave damage and special projects, including cooperation with other groups similarly dedicated to the conservation of natural areas.

Specifically:

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

Where there is reason to believe that publication of cave locations will lead to vandalism before adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose publication.

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

NSS Anti-Harassment Policy

(Approved by the NSS Board of Governors 11/11/2018)

This Anti-Harassment Policy applies to all events sanctioned by the National Speleological Society. Internal organizations within the Society are independent organizations and may create their own policies. To remain compliant with the NSS Charter, they must also have in place an Anti-Harassment Policy, or agree to implement the NSS policy, or risk loss of association with the NSS.

The National Speleological Society is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free environment for our members and attendees at our events, on social media, and within our organization. We will not tolerate harassment in any form. Any attendee that violates this policy will be told to leave the event and may be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the NSS Board of Governors, pursuant to Bylaw XI. B. Discipline of Members.

Harassment includes but is not limited to inappropriate comments, inappropriate sexual behavior that warrants intervention, unwanted advances and touching, invasion of personal space in a sexual manner, deliberate intimidation, and unwelcomed sexual advances. In addition, harassment includes unwanted verbal, physical, cyber, or aggressive behavior. If an incident of harassment is reported, the event staff, volunteers, or NSS representatives will take corrective action against any offenders at the time of the incident, ranging from verbal warnings to expulsion from the area and/or event and a referral of the offender to the NSS Board of Governors for consideration of discipline from the Society.

We value all of our members and attendees that come to caving events and want to ensure that safety and well-being of all participants is a top priority. Any person being harassed or witnessing another person being harassed should contact a staff member immediately. We will make every effort to assist and provide protection for our members and attendees.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GROTTO
OF THE
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**
Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phones: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

- May your name, address, phone numbers & email be listed in the annual membership directory? ___ Yes ___ No
- The Grotto uses an email list to distribute meeting notices and other cave-related material (no spam). Do you wish to be added to the list? ___ Yes ___ No
- The Grotto's newsletter, the *D. C. Speleograph*, is available in printed form or as a PDF file that will be emailed to you. Which delivery method do you prefer? ___ Paper ___ Email ___ Both

Check here if you are under 18 years old: _____ (and a parent's signature is required)

Other caving Affiliation(s): _____

What aspects of caving interest you: _____

Grotto Membership categories:

Regular: ___ \$10/1-year ___ \$20/2-years ___ \$25/3-years (best bargain)
(includes printed and/or electronic *D. C. Speleograph* subscription & voting privileges)

Family: ___ \$2/1-year ___ \$4/2-years ___ \$6/3-years
(includes voting privileges, but no *D. C. Speleograph* subscription; a person at the same address must be a Regular member)

Subscriber: ___ \$10/1-year ___ \$20/2-years ___ \$25/3-years
(includes printed and/or electronic *D. C. Speleograph* subscription, but no voting privileges)

Payment options:

1. **Send a check** payable to "DC Grotto" to Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St, Laurel MD 20707. (Send cash at your own risk).
2. **Pay with PayPal:** Payment can be made through PayPal.com if you have a PayPal account. Send a "Friends and Family" transfer to the Membership Secretary at bob@rhoke.net. He will transfer the payment to the Grotto. Be sure the transfer is not a payment for goods or services, and don't use a debit/credit card. (Both of those options incur a fee). Include your email address in PayPal's comment field (PayPal doesn't show emails on transfers).

I, the undersigned, being desirous of caving, exploring, or otherwise entering upon and under land and premises, and being aware of the risks and hazards inherent in caving and having elected voluntarily to participate, do hereby release fellow cavers and all persons, unincorporated associations and corporations from any and all liability either in law or equity for any injury, death or damage which might ensue. This release shall bind myself, my heirs and/or representatives.

I desire to be admitted as a member of the District of Columbia Grotto of the National Speleological Society. I will uphold the Constitution, Bylaws, and policies of the District of Columbia Grotto, to include the conservation and anti-harassment policies on reverse of this application.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
(not required for subscribers)

Parental Signature _____ Date _____
(if member applicant is under age of 18)

Return completed application and check to Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St., Laurel MD 20707 or bob@rhoke.net