



Youth Opportunities Underground Hold Harmless Agreement

I understand that participation in caving activities involves a certain degree of risk and can be physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for myself or my child to participate in this activity. I also understand that participation in this activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. I release the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all claims or liability arising out of this participation.

In case of emergency involving my child, I understand every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical provider selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the adult in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant, follow-up and communication with the participant's parents or guardian, and/or determination of the participant's ability to continue in the program activities.

I understand all the Essential Equipment needed for safe cave exploring practice and have supplied or secured this equipment for my child.

I have read and understand the Hold Harmless Agreement. _____ (initial)

I hereby assign and grant to Allen Maddox, the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made of me or my child by him, and I hereby release Allen Maddox from any and all liability from such use and publication. I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage, and/or distribution of said photographs/ electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of Allen Maddox, and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

Participant's printed name _____

Participant's signature _____ Date _____

*Parent/guardian printed name _____

*Parent/guardian signature _____ Date _____

(* If participant is a minor)

Emergency contact: Name: _____ Relationship _____

Phone # _____ Alternate Phone # _____

All participants should be in good physical condition.

Caving is a physically as well as mentally demanding activity. All participants should be within the “Maximum Allowable Height Weight Ratio” chart.

Maximum Allowable Height Weight Ratio		
Height (inches),	Maximum Acceptance	Please check participant's height verifying they are not over maximum allowable height / weight ratio.
Less than 60		
60	166	
61	172	
62	178	
63	183	
64	189	
65	195	
66	201	
67	207	
68	214	
69	220	
70	226	
71	233	
72	239	
73	246	
74	252	
75	260	
76	267	
77	274	
78	281	
79 & over	295	

Cost:

<i>We ask for a \$20 per person donation</i> to Youth Opportunities Underground (www.youcave.org) for the trip and the use of a helmet and headlamp. This helps us with gear maintenance, cleaning, replacement, and continues to provide this program to all youth groups and youth organizations. All our guides are volunteers.	\$20.00	
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Additional Cost Options:

battery management – provide batteries and manage installment throughout the trip	\$2.00	
Knee pads and Gloves rental per trip	\$3.00	
Coveralls rental per trip	\$10.00	
Total		

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Safety First!

Disclaimer: Caving is an inherently hazardous activity, with bruises and twisted ankles being common injuries. Broken bones, concussions, entrapment, disabling injuries, and deaths have been known to occur during caving trips. This information is not a substitute for instruction, experience, or personal responsibility.

Caving can be physically and emotionally demanding and stressful. It is important that you are prepared, fit, properly equipped, sober, and healthy.

We strongly recommend that beginners cave with and be led by experienced, knowledgeable cavers. Cavers need to understand their personal skill level and the difficulty of the cave being visited -- it is your responsibility to not exceed your abilities and skill levels. Inform your trip leader and companions of any situations or conditions that may limit your abilities and capabilities.

Average cave temperatures are near 55 degrees with humidity of 100%. Dressing in layers of synthetic insulating clothing can help protect cavers from the constant hazard of hypothermia.

Cave Conservation

Caves are very fragile, it is illegal to damage or remove formations or anything else from the inside of a cave. Formations will not grow back for thousands of years. Many animals that you may see in a cave are also protected by law and should not be disturbed.

Most caves do not clean themselves, trash, paint, human waste, and food crumbs will all remain in a cave for a very long time and impact the cave environment. Always pack out everything you take into the cave.

Essential Equipment Must Bring:

I will be providing a helmet and headlamp for each participant to use for the caving activity. In addition, each participant must provide for themselves;

- 4 – fresh “AA” batteries (or Battery Management Package for \$2)
- Rugged clothes in layers (i.e. jeans, t-shirt, hoodie) that will get muddy **NO SWEAT PANTS, NO TYVEK COVERALLS** (or Coverall Rental for \$10).
- Lug sole boot **NO SNEAKERS.**
- Gloves
- Knee pads (or Knee Pad and Glove Rental for \$3)
- Small pack (i.e. string bag) with
 - Water bottle
 - Snack (crush proof)
 - Small Personal First aid kit with any personal medications (i.e. epi pen, inhaler, etc.)
- Large plastic bag to put all your muddy cloths in to go home.
- Complete change of clothes, including shoes, down to the skin