

CENTRAL INDIANA GROTTO

a Chapter of the National Speleological Society, Inc.

Membership Application

To become a member of the Central Indiana Grotto you must submit this application to the Chairman or the Vice Chairman. You are expected to become a member of the National Speleological Society within one year of joining the Grotto.

By signing this application applicants agree to abide by the cave conservation policies of the National Speleological Society and the Central Indiana Grotto. The conservation policy of the National Speleological Society is reproduced on the back side of this application.

I have read and agree to abide by the conservation policy, I hereby apply for membership in the Central Indiana Grotto:

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP+4 _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

(list only numbers you can be called at)

Interests: (check one or more)

conservation ____ photography ____
biology ____ rock climbing ____
geology ____ vertical ____
mapping ____ organizing ____
electronics ____ other ____
archeology ____ _____

Briefly summarize your previous caving experience on the back of this form. This is so members can get to know you. Experience is not required for membership.

Age _____

Occupation _____

E-mail address _____

NSS Number _____ (if available)

Type of NSS membership (check one)

regular ____ associate ____
dependent ____ sustaining ____
life ____ honorary ____

List grotto trips you have attended:

(cave) _____ (month) _____ (year) _____

List grotto meetings you have attended:

(month) _____ (year) _____

Have you been a member of the CIG before?

(yes) ____ (no) ____

If yes, approximately when? _____

Are you presently a member of another grotto of the NSS?

(yes) ____ (no) ____

Which Grotto? _____

NOTE: Also sign the release on the other side.

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I, _____
(Name - Please print)

of _____
(Address - Please print)

understand the risks involved with caving and the caving-related activities of the Central Indiana Grotto and hereby agree to assume all responsibility for myself and my property. I agree for myself and my heirs, personal representatives, or assigns, to indemnify and hold harmless the National Speleological Society, Inc.; the Central Indiana Grotto and all members thereof; and the owners and/or managers of any caves in which I go caving, from any and all claims arising from risks which are hereby voluntarily assumed.

Witness to signature	Signature
Date	Age and Birthdate
Witness to signature	Date
Date	Parents Signature if Minor
	Date

Experience summary (Experience is not required but it helps us tell the other members something about you.):

NSS Conservation Policy

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, can not 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.