

Cleveland Grotto Membership Form

Cleveland Grotto, Inc., a Chapter of the National Speleological Society

Internal Organization #NSS-005 — Established 1944 — 75+ Years of Exploration and Education

1. PERSONAL DATA

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____

Cell: (____) _____ Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Occupation: _____

2. AFFILIATION

Are you an NSS member? ____ Yes ____ No If Yes, what is your NSS number? _____

Is the Cleveland Grotto of the NSS your primary grotto or caving organization? ____ Yes ____ No

List other caving organizations and outdoor recreational organizations you are a member of: _____

3. EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Allergies or medical conditions that we should be apprised of: _____

Medications taken for above conditions _____

Two people to notify in case of an emergency:

1) Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Relationship: _____

2) Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Relationship: _____

4. FIRST AID

Are you qualified to give first aid? ____ Yes ____ No Card/License renewal date: _____

Level of Medical expertise: _____

Are you qualified to perform CPR? ____ Yes ____ No Card/License renewal date: _____

Cleveland Grotto Policy for Cave Conservation

Cleveland Grotto, Inc., a Chapter of 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 Cleveland Grotto is to work for the protection 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 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 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 destroy the interest of the cave.

Cleveland Grotto 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 the 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 Cleveland Grotto will oppose such publication.

It is the duty of every Cleveland Grotto 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.

In accordance with Cleveland Grotto Bylaws Section 2B, "Grotto members are required to join the National Speleological Society no later than one year after Grotto membership becomes effective." However, Grotto members are strongly encouraged to join the NSS as soon as possible since joining the NSS entitles you to additional benefits in The Cleveland Grotto as well as the benefits provided by the National Speleological Society. I, _____, understand and support the goals and policies of Cleveland Grotto and the National Speleological Society, and hereby declare my intent to become a member of Cleveland Grotto and subsequently a National Speleological Society member, as required by Cleveland Grotto Bylaws.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Membership dues included: \$ _____

\$25.00 a year includes a subscription to the newsletter, *The Cleve-O-Grotto News* mailed to your street address.

\$15.00 a year includes a subscription to the newsletter you can download from www.clevelandgrotto.org.

Please make checks payable to The Cleveland Grotto and remit along with this form to:

The Cleveland Grotto, c/o Bill Lendvay, 6960 Hilton Rd, Brecksville, OH 44141 or bring this form along with payment to the monthly Grotto meeting.

Permission is granted by the Cleveland Grotto to reproduce this form as needed.