

Greater Houston Grotto

Membership Form

To Join GHG please read the statements below. You must be at least 16 years old. If you are under 21 a parent or guardian will be required to sign the agreement below. Fill out the following form. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, and \$15 for family memberships. Membership to GHG does not include membership to the NSS or TSA. To join the TSA and NSS go to our LINKS page.

Name: _____

Street/Apt.: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Email/Hm: _____ Email/Wrk: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Caving Experience: _____

NSS# (if applicable): _____

We, as a chapter of the National Speleological Society are committed to the conservation and preservation of caves, their contents and surroundings as declared in the NNS Conservation Policy. As a member of the Greater Houston Grotto (GHG) I agree to respect and follow the same commitments as outlined by the NSS for all of its membership. I also release the NSS, all it's chapters, the Greater Houston Grotto, and its members from any liability. I assume all responsibility as I participate in any activities at my own risk.

I am at least 21 yrs of age, I have read the above statements, I understand and agree to them wholly and freely. *Members under 21 years of age must obtain the written consent of a legal parent or guardian.

Member's Signature *If under 21 years of age, consent signature must be included below.

Date

I am the legal parent/guardian of the above-mentioned member. I have read and agree in whole and in part with all items listed above. I assume all responsibility for the actions of the above member and hold the Greater Houston Grotto, its members, associates and Board of Directors blameless from any liability in any form. I accept that the above member participates in the caving-related activities at his/her own risk.

Signature of Parent of Guardian

Relationship to the above:

Date

NSS Conservation Policy, adopted December 28, 1960:

“The National Speleological Society believes: That caves have unique scientific, recreation 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 collection of mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead specimens, is never justified, as it encourages others to collect, and thus destroys the interest of the cave.

The Society encourages projects such as: establishing cave preserves; 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 location(s) will lead to vandalism before adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose such publication.

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