

## Cave Exploring Rules:

1. Boys must go in **groups of at least three**, and no more than eight. **No solo** exploring. Boys must give **names of members of group (written out)** to Scoutmaster before entering the cave. Report back to Scoutmaster when you come out.
2. Groups must **stay together** while in the cave. No splitting up.
3. **Basic equipment: Required!!**
  - a. **Flashlight** and backup flashlight (or spare parts, batteries etc.)
  - b. **Hardhat** – or bicycle helmet
  - c. **Canteen** or water bottle
  - d. **Warm clothes**
  - e. Durable Shoes or boots
  - f. **No ropes**, ladders other climbing devices allowed in the cave – (will be used only in emergencies)
4. No boys under age 14 may go beyond the vertical shaft (smoke stake) formation. If you can't make it up the shaft on your own, you don't have any business going further into the cave.
5. **No running**, jumping, or horseplay in the cave.
6. **Help other members** of your group, and be aware of the limitations of all members. Don't go beyond safe limits for all members. Remember – any difficult obstacles encountered going in will also need to be overcome when coming out, when you are tired and low on strength.
7. **Avoid:** mud slopes, loose rocks, pits, deep water, complex routes
8. **Stay dry** – avoid getting wet or muddy which can lead to hypothermia.

## Conservation & Courtesy:

1. **Leave No Trace:** leave every natural thing in the cave exactly as it was before you entered.
2. **Carry out all trash**, dead batteries, food, clothing, etc.
3. **Do not use the cave as a bathroom.** Take care of business before entering or after leaving the cave.
4. **Do not touch delicate natural formations or minerals in the cave.**
5. **Do not carry out "souvenirs"**
6. **Photography is OK.** Please take pictures rather than artifacts.
7. **Do not disturb bats** or other cave life forms. Bats hibernate during winter.
8. **Do not write, mark or paint on cave walls.** Reflective tape may be used in appropriate places to mark "exits." Arrows must always point to the exit.
9. Remove any reflective tape when leaving the cave.
10. **Be respectful to the cave owner** and his family.
11. **Stay in areas designated** for our use by the owner.
12. Don't climb fences or leave gates open.
13. Don't tease or chase livestock.
14. Keep noise levels down – especially at night.
15. Use common sense, and treat the owner's family as you would want to be treated.