



National Caves Association

PO Box 625, Cobleskill, NY 12043 www.cavern.com 518-231-5420
Robert A. Holt, Executive Director bob@cavern.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member Cave and International Member Cave

Applicant Information

Cave Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Toll Free Telephone _____

Fax no. _____

Website _____

Public Information Email _____

Contact Information

Primary Contact Person Name _____ Title _____

Direct Telephone _____ Extension _____

Direct Email (Not for Public Disclosure) _____

Additional Information

Membership Category

(Please indicate which membership category you are applying for)

- _____ **Category A Cave:** attendance up to 40,000 visitors annually, \$400 annual dues.
- _____ **Category B Cave:** attendance from 40,001 to 70,000 visitors annually, \$700 annual dues.
- _____ **Category C Cave:** attendance from 70,001 to 100,000 visitors annually, \$900 annual dues.
- _____ **Category D Cave:** attendance from 100,001 to 200,000 visitors annually, \$1,200 annual dues.
- _____ **Category E Cave:** attendance over 200,000 visitors annually, \$2,000 annual dues.
- _____ **Complimentary Membership:** available to State and Federally owned show caves, no annual dues. *Please also check one of the boxes above so that we know how many visitors you receive annually.*

I hereby agree to uphold the bylaws of the National Caves Association and strive to meet reasonable levels of expectation as described in the "Points of Excellence."

Applicant Signature

Date

Print Name and Title

Application Checklist

Check to indicate that each of the following required components is included with this application:

- _____ Completed Membership Application
- _____ Copy of sponsorship letter from current NCA member.
- _____ Check for the amount of membership dues for the category of membership for which you are applying.

Please send your completed application to: National Caves Association
P.O. Box 625
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Thank you for your interest in the National Caves Association. We are looking forward to having you as a member.

Eligibility Criteria

Any Show Cave which is being considered for membership as a Member Cave or International Member Cave must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

- (a) Meet the Association's definition of a "Show Cave" which is: **a natural occurring void beneath the surface of the earth that has been made accessible to the public for tours.**
- (b) Be sponsored in writing by a current NCA Member Cave.
- (c) Carry adequate general liability insurance.
- (d) Make a reasonable effort to have a representative attend the NCA Convention and Annual Business Meeting each year.
- (e) Agree to be subject to visits by representatives of the NCA Board of Directors to determine continued eligibility for membership.
- (f) Meet the reasonable standards of expectation as identified in the NCA's Points of Excellence.

Points Of Excellence

The Association shall encourage all Member Caves and International Member Caves to meet reasonable standards of expectation as set forth in the following Points of Excellence:

- (a) **Safety.** Maintain a safe environment for guests and employees and comply with all applicable public laws.
- (b) **Resource Management.** Practice good conservation and preservation measures to maintain and protect the natural resource.
- (c) **Resource Interpretation.** Provide sound interpretation of the resource to guests.
- (d) **Hospitality.** Be friendly, courteous and helpful to guests.
- (e) **Appearance.** The overall property should be well maintained and clean with an appearance pleasing to guests.
- (f) **Facilities.** Provide and maintain adequate facilities to serve guests.
- (g) **Business Ethics.** Conduct business in an ethical manner and comply with all applicable public laws.

Membership Benefits

NCA Brochure. The NCA produces and distributes over 250,000 full color brochures at member caves and tourist information centers nationally. Your cave's photo can be featured in the NCA brochure and "Gallery" on the website for a minimal additional charge.

NCA Public Website. The NCA has a public website, www.cavern.com which features all NCA members. This site has over 250,000 visitor sessions annually and is the source for information about show caves for the traveling public.

NCA Website "Members" Page. The "Members" page on the NCA website is available exclusively for members of the National Caves Association. The "Members" page is filled with valuable information for cave owners and managers. It is here that you will find the NCA Membership Directory, committee information, reports presented at the annual convention, current and back issues of Cave Talk; information about the annual convention; information about the NCA Insurance program; webinars and much, much more. The "Members" page is constantly being updated with new information.

NCA Insurance Program. In partnership with PRO Insurance and Assurance Agency, the NCA offers complete insurance packages for caves of all sizes. General liability, property, auto and umbrella policies are just a sample of what is available through the Association's insurance program. The combined buying power of the Association's membership allows for very competitive rates.

NCA Monthly Newsletter. Cave Talk is the monthly membership newsletter. Cave Talk covers a variety of topics on all aspects of show caves industry, including business, conservation, legislation and science.

NCA Annual Convention & Vendors Show. The annual convention is held in the fall at different locations across the United States. Informative seminars, panel discussions, and guest speakers are just a small sample of the events that take place during the four day convention. To many members of the Association this is the most important benefit of membership and is easily the most anticipated event each year. In conjunction with the annual convention, a specialized "Vendors Show" is held at which convention attendees may find a variety of items of interest for their business such as retail merchandise, point of sale systems, and advertising information on brochures and billboards, just to name a few.

NCA Complimentary Admission Program. Many Member Caves extend complimentary admission to the staff of other Member Caves.

Membership Surveys. The NCA conducts periodic surveys of the membership on important issues such as attendance trends, new products, promotional ideas, added attractions, admission rates, and public education about caves and caverns.

Trade Association Membership. The NCA holds membership in the International Show Caves Association (ISCA). Many NCA members also hold individual cave memberships in ISCA. The NCA also partners with the National Speleological Society, Bat Conservation International, the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, and the International Gift Exposition in the Smokies.

Cave Vandalism Reward Fund. In the event you have vandalism to your cave the NCA offers a \$1,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those involved.