



# National Caves Association

PO Box 625, Cobleskill, NY 12043 [cavern.com](http://cavern.com) 518-231-5420  
Robert A. Holt, Executive Director [bob@cavern.com](mailto:bob@cavern.com)

## CAVE 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\_\_\_\_\_

Website\_\_\_\_\_

Public Information Email\_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Information

Primary Contact Person Name\_\_\_\_\_

Title\_\_\_\_\_

Main Telephone\_\_\_\_\_Extension\_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone (Not for Public Disclosure)\_\_\_\_\_

Direct Email (Not for Public Disclosure)\_\_\_\_\_

## Accounting Dept. Contact Information

Accounting Person Name \_\_\_\_\_

Main Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone (Not for Public Disclosure) \_\_\_\_\_

Direct Email (Not for Public Disclosure) \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Information

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## 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, \$1,000 annual dues.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Category D Cave:** attendance from 100,001 to 200,000 visitors annually, \$1,500 annual dues.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Category E Cave:** attendance over 200,000 visitors annually, \$2,500 annual dues.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Complimentary Membership:** available to State and Federal 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 USA and strive to meet reasonable levels of expectation as described in the "Points of Excellence."

Applicant Signature

Date

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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 USA  
P.O. Box 625  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Thank you for your interest in the National Caves Association USA. 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 National Caves Association USA produces and distributes over 250,000 full-color brochures annually at member caves and tourist information centers across the country. For a minimal additional fee, your cave's photo can be featured in the NCA brochure, offering valuable exposure to potential visitors. In addition, the "Gallery" page on [cavern.com](http://cavern.com) can showcase multiple images of your cave, further enhancing your online presence and visibility.

**NCA Public Website** The National Caves Association's public website, [cavern.com](http://cavern.com), showcases all NCA member caves and serves as a go-to resource for travelers seeking information about show caves across the United States. With over 250,000 visitor sessions each year, the site plays a vital role in promoting member attractions to the traveling public.

**NCA Resource Center** An exclusive benefit available to members of the National Caves Association USA through shared Google Docs. This centralized hub offers a wealth of valuable information tailored specifically for cave owners and managers.

Inside the Resource Center, members will find:

- The NCA Membership Directory
- Committee details and updates
- Annual reports presented at the annual convention
- Current and archived issues of the *Cave Talk* newsletter
- *Cave Talk* Podcasts
- Convention information and resources
- Details on the NCA Insurance Program
- Educational tools and webinar recordings
- A growing library of photographs
- And much more!

The Resource Center is continually updated to ensure members have access to the latest materials and insights to support the success and growth of their cave businesses.

**NCA Monthly Newsletter – *Cave Talk*** *Cave Talk* is the NCA's monthly newsletter, exclusively for members. It covers a wide range of topics relevant to the show cave industry, including business operations, conservation efforts, legislation, and scientific developments.

## **Membership Benefits**

*(continued)*

**NCA Insurance Program** In partnership with Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC, the National Caves Association offers comprehensive insurance packages tailored for caves of all sizes. Coverage options include general liability, property, auto, and umbrella policies. Thanks to the collective buying power of the Association's membership, these plans are available at very competitive rates.

**NCA Annual Convention & Vendors Show** Held each fall at different locations across the United States, the NCA Annual Convention is a highlight of the year for many members. The four-day event features informative seminars, panel discussions, guest speakers, and networking opportunities. A key part of the convention is the Vendors Show, where attendees can explore a variety of products and services for their business—from retail merchandise and POS systems to marketing solutions like brochures and billboard advertising.

**NCA Complimentary Admission Program** Many NCA Member Caves offer complimentary admission (*Green Card*) to staff members of other NCA Member Caves, fostering connection, education, and shared experiences within the community.

**Membership Surveys** The NCA conducts regular surveys on vital industry topics, such as attendance trends, pricing strategies, promotional ideas, new attractions, and public education efforts. These insights help guide business decisions and keep members informed about current trends.

**Trade Association Membership** The NCA is an active member of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA), and many of our member caves also maintain individual ISCA memberships. We also collaborate with key partners including the National Speleological Society (NSS), Bat Conservation International (BCI), the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), and the International Gift Exposition in the Smokies (IGES).

**Cave Vandalism Reward Fund** In the unfortunate event of vandalism, the NCA offers a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. This fund reflects our commitment to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of our member caves.