

Date _____ Subscription*** Associate Regular/NSS Family Amt. Pd. _____

Greater Cincinnati Grotto New Membership Application

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip+4: _____

Home#: _____ Cell#: _____

Sex: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Parent/Guardian Name, if Minor: _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Information: _____

Newsletter (*Electric Caver*) Preference: Electronic (in color) Paper (Usually B&W)

Caving Information:

NSS# (If applicable): _____ NSS Expiration Date: _____

How did you learn about the Grotto? _____

Do you have any other grotto affiliations? _____

Do you consider GCG to be your "Home" grotto? (For NSS's alignment records) _____

How many years caving and what types of experience do you have? _____

What areas of the Grotto interest you? _____

Do you have any vertical experience (list)? _____

Are you Cave Diving Certified/Level? _____

Do you have any medical training? _____ FirstAid/CPR Doctor Nurse Paramedic EMT

In case of a caving emergency, could you leave work to help? Yes No

Vehicle: Make: _____ Model: _____ 4WD? _____

So we can introduce you as a new member to the Grotto in the Electric Cave, please list any special talents or interests you may have. Also, please list any experiences that might be helpful to GCG during a cave rescue:

Family Members Names & Ages: _____

Signature _____

Sponsor _____

Please fill out and return to:

GCG Membership Chair:

Gary Bush

8238 Woodstream Dr. NW

Canal Winchester, OH 43110-8150

E-Mail: wqbush@yahoo.com

*** Subscription indicates that you wish to receive the *Electric Caver*, but will not attend meetings, will not vote in elections or on issues, and not hold office.

Revised: 02-20-2021

Greater Cincinnati Grotto

OF THE

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Website: <http://www.gcgcavers.com>)

Regular Meetings: First Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati –or– on-line, if necessary. Check the website for building and room location on campus or on-line sign-on.

General Requirements: Membership in this Grotto is open to all individuals demonstrating an interest in the objectives of the Grotto and agreeing to abide by its tenets. Membership shall not be denied due to race, sex, religious affiliation, or national origin. To demonstrate his/her interest, a prospective member should:

- A. Submit to the Membership Committee a written application to be filed for later consideration upon the applicant's completion of all other membership requirements.
- B. Go caving at least one time with a Grotto member.
- C. Attend at least two out of three consecutive General Meetings of the Grotto.
- D. Be approved by a simple majority of votes of the Executive Board.

The Executive Committee shall have the option to waive, by majority vote of the committee members, one or more of the foregoing requisites.

Dues: Dues are \$25.00 for Associate (non-voting) members, \$20.00 for Regular/NSS (voting) members. Dues are also prorated for new members through the calendar year, as follows.

Month	Associate	Regular/NSS	Family	
J F M	25.00	20.00	10.00	Single Surcharge Added to regular dues
AMJ	20.00	16.00	"	
JAS	15.00	12.00	"	
ON	10.00	8.00	"	
Dec.	FREE	FREE		

Family Membership is a single upcharge (not each) and includes spouse or significant other and all children under 18 living at home.

Checking (Subscription) on the application indicates you may not be able to attend the meetings, but wish to receive the Electric Caver. Dues are the same.



LIABILITY WAIVER, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

CAVING CLUB, EVENT AND ACTIVITIES, CAVE ENTRANCE, EXPLORATION, STUDY

ROCKCASTLE KARST CONSERVANCY (RKC) • GREATER CINCINNATI GROTTO (GCG) •

BLUE GRASS GROTTO (BGG) • DAYTON UNDERGROUND GROTTO (DUG) • CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

Attention: By signing this document, you will waive certain legal rights. Please read both the front and back pages, you will sign on the back. Only parents or legal guardians may read and sign for minor children.



WARNING

INTRODUCTION

There are significant elements of risk in any organized caving club, event, adventure, sport, or activity associated with a cave. Certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character and natural beauty of the cave and caving activities. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of the activity can be causes of loss or damage to your equipment, or accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. We do not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for these organized events and club activities but we think it is important for you to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the inherent risks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

I acknowledge that the following describes some, but not all risks:

1) Slips, trips, falls, or painful crashes due to pits, boulders, loose debris, inclines, declines, and wet areas in the cave; 2) risks associated with crossing, climbing, or down climbing; 3) Misuse of equipment or failure of equipment; 4) my physical strength, coordination, sense of balance and ability to follow or give directions while climbing, belaying, crawling, walking, or stooping; 5) fatigue, chill, hypothermia, and/or dizziness, which may cause injury in and of itself or diminish my reaction time and increase the risk of accident; 6) my own inadequate equipment and lack of training; 7) the risk of head injury by falling rocks, debris, slipping and falling, tripping, my own failure to wear a helmet, and banging my head on rock protrusions or the ceiling; 8) non-level ground and walking surfaces such as breakdown, mud, cave formations, water, gravel, and rocks which may cause falls, twisted ankles, and other bodily injury; 9) the complicated labyrinth of passages in a cave which may cause me and other members of my party to get lost; 10) the fact that since all caves are underground they may flood and have high water levels which can cause drowning, hypothermia, and other illness and injuries; 11) abrasion from or entanglement with ropes or equipment; 12) the presence, actions or falls of other members of my party; 13) the fact that caves are dark areas, the very definition of a cave is a natural opening in the earth where light does not penetrate - therefore the risk of entering a cave without adequate lighting for which I am solely responsible; 14) the presence, actions, or falls of other participants; 15) trash, man-made debris and other materials which may be washed into or otherwise accumulate in a cave; 16) the presence or absence of good, breathable oxygen in a cave; 17) farm equipment, farm animals, dogs, vehicles, vegetation which may exist and be hidden on my ingress and egress to and from the cave; 18) the inherent and extreme risks associated with swimming in a cave's water and particularly of cave diving; and 19) wild animals which exist in nature and which may use the cave's entrance or the cave itself for a habitat and all risks associated

therewith; 20) misuse of alcohol and or drugs that impair thought, decision making, and motor coordination; 21) risk associated with organized caving clubs, events, rappelling, contest games, food and the premises at which these events are held; and 22) the **negligence** of volunteers, employees, officers and directors of all above mentioned organizations.

I understand that the description of these conditions and risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death. In recognition of the inherent risks of the organized caving club, events and any caving activity which I (and/or my child) will engage in, I confirm that I (and/or my child) am physically and mentally capable of participating in these organized caving clubs events, activities, entering, exploring, surveying and/or studying the cave and activity and using any equipment which I/we may bring along. I (and/or my child) participate(s) willingly and voluntarily and I assume full responsibility for personal injury, accidents or illness (including death) and any related expenses. I also assume responsibility for damage to or loss of my/our personal property. I also assume the risk for accidents, injury and/or damages caused by the **negligence** of any persons engaging in these activities and organized caving clubs events with me/us, including any tour guides, fellow explorers, fellow cavers, friends, and the like, whether such negligence is comparative or contributory. I am aware of the risks associated with organized caving events and clubs, caves and cave exploration and with utilizing equipment for climbing and rappelling in a cave and understand the technical aspects of these activities. I accept that climbing in a cave, cave exploration, and particularly cave diving are inherently dangerous sports. I acknowledge that wearing appropriate clothing, footwear, lighting, helmets and equipment are basic safety precautions and that wearing a UIAA approved helmet may help prevent head and/or neck injuries. I understand and accept that it is not the responsibility of RKC, GCG, BGG, DUG, or COG, volunteers, trip leaders or tail guides, to ensure that I (and/or my child) have this equipment and wear it before entrance into the cave but my sole responsibility.

I assume the risks of personal injury, accidents, and illness, including but not limited to sprains, torn muscles and/or ligaments, fracture or broken bones; eye damage, cuts, wounds, scrapes, abrasions, and/or contusions, dehydration, oxygen shortage, hypothermia, head, neck and/or spinal injuries; insect bites or allergic reaction, food poisoning and reactions from food; shock, drowning, paralysis and/or death.

(See back of page for additional language and signature space.)

In consideration of the privilege to participate in these organized caving events and activities, to enter the cave or land for recreational, geological, educational, explorational or any and all other reasons; I on my behalf and on behalf of my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, do hereby release RKC, GCG, BGG, DUG, and COG, their organizers, volunteers, and employees, the landowners and cave owners (whether owned privately, by a company or a governmental entity) upon whose land I might enter and their principals, directors, co-owners, spouses,

heirs, agents, employees, and volunteers, and all other parties whether known or unknown from all any and liability – **including liability for negligence**, gross negligence, or wanton and reckless behavior and waive any claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death occurring to me and/or my child from any cause whatsoever in connection with the activities described in this document. This document shall remain the property of the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. ■

INFORMATION AND SIGNATURES

Please print clearly

Do not sign unless you have read and agree with the language on both pages

Adult Member/Guest/Parent or Legal Guardian

Name: _____ DOB: _____

If signing as a parent or legal guardian only—complete all information below but sign only in the “Minors” section below. If signing on behalf of self and as parent or legal guardian, sign in both places

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Adult Member, Visitor or Guest

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: __ (____) _____ Email: _____

Affiliation: _____ Sponsor: _____

Minors

I hereby certify and attest that I have read and agree to both pages of this document and I am signing it as parent or Legal Guardian of the following minor child(ren).

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name

Date: _____

I will be accompanying my child. _____ Yes _____ No

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____ Relationship: _____

Emergency contact information: _____
Name Phone Number

Youth Group/School/Club Name: _____ SPONSOR: _____

Youth Group/School/Club Leader: _____

Would you like to receive more information at your above provided email address about RKC/GSP? _____ Yes _____ No

The information provided on this form will not be shared with any other individual or organization except in the case of an emergency. Rev 3.102018