

LAUREL CAVERNS GEO-SPELUNKING STATEMENT OF AWARENESS FORM

Be sure to carefully read each numbered "point to know." Present this form at check in.

1. Don't confuse this form with the UPPER or LOWER CAVING RELEASE FORM.

Laurel Caverns has four zones: (1) the easy and well-lit portions of the traditional guided tour, (2) the maze of unlit but safe crawl passages off the guided tour, (3) the untouched, unlit, huge rooms below the guided tour path, and (4) the mile of untouched, unlit, forty-foot high corridors that go to the bottom of the mountain.

Lower Caving involves zones (1), (3), & (4). Participants must be 12 years of age & up.

Upper Caving involves zones (1), (2), & (3). Participants must be 9 years of age & up.

Geo-Spelunking involves zones (1) & (2) only. Participants must be 8 years of age & up.

2. Participants may only do Geo-Spelunking in conjunction with:

(A) A Boy Scout or Girl Scout Geology Program

(B) The Geology Seminar

The intent of the Geo-Spelunking activity is to provide morning geology students, who cannot, by age, preference, or other reason participate in the much more challenging Upper or Lower Cave learning programs, with a two-hour afternoon explore-and-learn activity that does not expose them to rocky floors having drop-offs or heightened exposure to a fall.

3. Participants must have reached their 8th birthday, no exceptions.

Parental signature is required for all participants under 18 years of age.

Laurel Caverns has no power to research any participant's family situation. A signature by one parent or guardian will be treated as the consent by the other parent or guardian, if any. By signing for a participant, a parent or guardian is representing that the participant is at least 8 years old. **If one parent or guardian signs this awareness form and the second parent or guardian objects to the participant's involvement in this activity, or is unaware of the contents of this form, the first parent or guardian must not give approval for the participant.**

Laurel Caverns cannot be responsible for lapses in comprehension or an inability to read English.

4. Parents and Participants must know:

(A) Participants will be entering cold, damp, dark areas with only a helmet and light.

(B) This activity involves crawling and that all clothing worn can be stained.

(C) Participants should wear shoes with a good tread.

(D) Participants should wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt. Shorts are a bad choice.

(E) Bringing a change of clean clothes for the ride home is a good idea.

(F) This activity minimally involves one hour and usually takes longer.

5. Parents and adult leaders are not charged for this learning activity for a reason.

This learning activity is best understood as an accommodation for scouts and students, 8 years and up, not able to do upper caving, for whatever reason. The assigned interpretive staffer is not trained to be a disciplinarian, only to teach. Accordingly, matters of discipline and the meeting of special needs must fall to the adults accompanying the scouts or students.

I (we) affirm that I (we) have carefully read and understand ALL FIVE of the above sections of this form.

Please Print Participant's Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please Print Parent / Guardian's Name: _____