

# LAUREL CAVERNS UPPER CAVING RELEASE 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 LOWER CAVING RELEASE FORM.**

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

**Lower Caving** involves zones (1), (2), & (3). Participants must be 12 years of age & up.

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

This form only applies to **UPPER** caving.

**2. Participants must have reached their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, no exceptions.**

**3. All participants and their guardians must read and sign this form.**

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

**4. Upper caving can be dangerous.**

Though upper caving involves the safest parts of Laurel Caverns it still involves going into some of its undeveloped areas. The removal of an injured person can be difficult. In that we cannot research each one of you we must rely on your word that you have sufficient background and physical ability to handle yourself in the cave. Please be aware that participants go into an underground area completely in its natural state and that in many places the footing is slippery, uneven, and treacherous. It is a strenuous trip.

**5. Participants not properly prepared will not be admitted.**

**Proper preparation involves SIX things. (← very important)**

1. Participants must be wearing shoes with good tread and good ankle support.
2. Participants should wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt. Bring a change of clothes.
3. Participants must bring own lights. Two sources of light, each lasting 2 hours are required. Keychain lights, cell phones and other such dim lights are not acceptable.
4. Knapsacks are subject to search for spray cans, weapons, and the like.
5. Hard hats are required and Laurel Caverns will supply hard hats at no extra charge.
6. This is a real caving trip involving some crawling. Bring a change of clothing!

**6. It is humanly impossible for your Exploring Director to watch every movement and every step of every caving participant.**

It is humanly impossible for the Laurel Caverns staff to know the physical abilities of each participant. Responsibility for such things as the tread of shoes, loose clothing, poor ankle support, medical history, physical ability, medical vulnerabilities, the brightness of lights, the fit of hard hats, discipline failures, the cave floor before each participant, and all other things which fall under the immediate purview of a participant must be, and in all fairness can only be, the responsibility of participants and their sponsors.

**7. Parental signature is required for participants ages 9 through 17.**

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 9 years old. **If one parent or guardian signs this release 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.**

**I (we) affirm that I (we) have carefully read and understand ALL SEVEN of the above paragraphs of this form. I (we) understand that this activity involves risks of injury and I (we) voluntarily accept and assume all such risks. I (we) will not hold Laurel Caverns, its owners, or its agents, responsible for any injuries, accidents or problems arising out of any of the matters described in the seven paragraphs of this form.**

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  The 9th birthday has been reached.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Names: \_\_\_\_\_