

# LAUREL CAVERNS ALL-DAY CAVING RELEASE FORM

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

**1. If this form applies and is used, the Half-Day Caving Release Form is not needed.**

The Half-Day Caving Program constitutes the morning phase of the All-Day Caving Program. Even if having caved at Laurel Caverns in the past, new protocols with the Fayette County EMS, local first-response agencies, and the National Cave Rescue Commission require that participants must participate in the safety review and stress-screening activities that attend the Half-Day Caving Program. No exceptions. The morning phase, takes one twenty stories down the mountain. The afternoon phase takes one 45 stories down the mountain.

**2. Participants must have reached their 12<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. Caving can be dangerous.**

The afternoon phase of All-Day Caving involves going into its most challenging undeveloped areas. Participants travel, round-trip, about a mile beyond the lighted passages to a point 45 stories down the mountain and back up again. 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. Injuries have occurred. 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 hiking boots, with good tread, that lace 1 inch above the ankle.
2. Participants should wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Bring a change of clothes.
3. Participants must bring their 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 under 18 years.**

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 12 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 12th birthday has been reached.

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

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