

The Laurel Caverns Introduction to Cave Exploring Program

**This was created for those not wanting, or not qualifying for,
the Laurel Caverns All-Day Caving Program.**

This is a two and one-half-hour program arranged by calling 724-438-3003

Note: this assumes 20 participants. Smaller groups might require less time.

Available every day from April 18, 2024 through October 27, 2024

for scout groups, religious organizations, schools, & summer camps

Rate: \$20 per participant regardless of age

Laurel Caverns will provide the lights & hard hats

Requirements

1. Participants must have reached their 9th birthday.
2. All participants should wear long pants and long-sleeved shirt/sweater suitable for crawling.
3. All participants must wear firmly fitting hiking shoes, tennis shoes, or the like, with good tread.
4. All groups must have at least one supervising adult participant.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. provide a light overview of caving first-aid supplies and their use, as suggested by the NCRC
2. explain why teamwork is a critical part of cave exploration
3. demonstrate basic handgrips used to assist fellow cavers during difficult climbs
4. describe the environment one encounters when within a large calcareous sandstone cave
5. outline the geological stages that a large cave, like Laurel Caverns, goes through
6. explain how new cave passages are often found at Laurel Caverns
7. demonstrate the basic crawling techniques one must employ when exploring a small passage
8. identify the proper procedures to be employed, should an injury take place
9. identify the clothing and equipment one should bring on a caving trip
10. describe the challenges one faces when climbing steep, unlit, cave passageways

Agenda

Registration – 15 minutes

Norman Cale Visitors' Center – Registration and restrooms – assembly in the Don Cale Room

Phase 1 Orientation – 5 minutes

The Don Cale Room

The lighted upper maze part of Laurel Caverns – 45 minutes

Learning goals 1 through 6 are covered.

Break & Phase 2 Orientation – 30 minutes

The Don Cale Room - Participants are fitted with Laurel Caverns helmets & lights.

The Hall of the Mountain King, Dining Room, Cale's Canyon, & Grand Canyon – 50 minutes

Learning goals 7 through 10 are covered

Program Wrap-up – 5 minutes

Helmet and light collection in the Norman Cale Visitors' Center