

The Laurel Caverns All-Day Cave Exploring Program

Rate: \$60 per participant regardless of age

For Walk-Ins

This caving program is offered every Saturday & Sunday at 9:00 am.

For scouts, religious organizations, schools, & summer camps

This caving program is offered every day open at 9:00 am.

Call: 724-438-3003 for group rates and reservations

Requirements

1. Participants must have reached their 12th birthday.
2. All participants should wear long pants and long-sleeved shirt/sweater suitable for crawling.
3. All participants must wear firmly fitting shoes, with good tread, that lace above the ankles.
4. All participants must bring two sources of light.
4. All groups must have at least one supervising adult participant.
5. All participants must sign the Laurel Caverns Caving Release Form
6. Parental Release Form co-signatures are required for participants under 18 years old.

Expected Learning Outcomes

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

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

Agenda

Registration – 9:00 – 9:30 am

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

Orientation – 9:30 – 10:00 am

Tour of the upper lighted part of Laurel Caverns covering learning goals 1, 2, & 3.

Break & Caving Preparation – 10:00 – 10:15 am

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

In-Cave Instruction on Caving Safety – 10:15 – 10:45 am

Bottom of Grand Canyon Passage (via Chandelier passage) – Learning goals 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 are covered.

Crawling Techniques – 10:45 – 11:30 am

Cale's Canyon, Stomach, and crawl into the Flue – Learning goal 9 is covered.

Lunch Break – 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

The Don Cale Room or the Laurel Caverns Picnic Shelter

Caving (Spelunking) Techniques – 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm (Depending on group size)

A looped excursion that includes the Ballroom, Cascades, Sleeping Rock, Post Office, Sump, Millstream Passage, Roland's Dig, and the Bat Room provide learning goal 10.

Program Wrap-up – 3:00 pm -

Participants return via the Grand Canyon to helmet collection in the Norman Cale Visitors' Center.