

The Laurel Caverns Introduction to Cave Exploring Program

This was created for those not wanting, or not qualifying for the Laurel Caverns Half-Day and All-Day Caving Programs.

Rate: \$20 per participant regardless of age

For Walk-Ins

This caving program is offered every Saturday & Sunday at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

For scouts, religious organizations, schools, & summer camps

This caving program is offered every day open at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

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

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. 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 Delaware Room

Afternoon: Registration – 1:00 – 1:30 pm

Orientation – 9:30 – 10:00 am

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

Afternoon: Orientation – 1:30 – 2:00 pm

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

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

Afternoon: Preparation – 2:00 – 2:15 pm

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

Bottom of rappelling Cliff – Learning goals 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 are covered.

Afternoon: Instruction – 2:15 – 2:45 pm

Crawling Techniques – 10:45 – 11:15 am

Upper Maze Loop Passage – Learning goal 9 is covered.

Afternoon: Crawling Techniques – 2:45 – 3:15 pm

Caving (Spelunking) Techniques – 11:15 – 12:00 pm

Via Hall of Mountain King & Dining Room, the Stomach & Cale's Canyon provide learning goal 10.

Afternoon: Caving Techniques – 2:45 – 4:00 pm

Program Wrap-up – 12:00 pm -

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

Afternoon Program Wrap-up – 4:00 pm -