



BOSTON GROTTTO

Of the National Speleological Society

Application for Membership

Membership in the Boston Grotto costs \$15 per calendar year. A pro-rated fee schedule applies for a partial year: January - April dues are \$15, May - August dues are \$10, and September - December dues are \$5. Membership entitles you to voting privileges for Grotto issues and elections, and to a postage-paid (for domestic addresses only) subscription to *The Massachusetts Caver*, the newsletter of the Boston Grotto. Additional family members may join for \$5 per year, but get no additional newsletter subscription. Please print clearly, below.

Dues Schedule

Calendar Year 20__

FULL (NSS member).....	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>	} Partial Year <input type="checkbox"/> \$10/\$5
ASSOCIATE (not an NSS member).....	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FAMILY (spouse or child).....	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Check one box: New membership Renewal; Last year of membership? _____

Name _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip code _____ Phone _____

Work or cell phone _____ E-mail _____

Person to contact in case of emergency _____

Relationship _____ Phone number _____

Year you first entered a wild (non-commercial) cave or participated in a wild cave tour _____

Number of trips to wild caves that you have participated in (estimate) _____

I have an interest in or experience with the following topics (please check all that apply):

	Interest	Experience		Interest	Experience
Cable ladder climbing			Cave diving		
Technical climbing			Cave restoration		
Wetsuit caving			Conservation		
Cave photography			Leading trips, training		
Cave studies (bio & geo)			Expedition caving		
Cave rescue			Finding new caves		
Single rope technique			Exploration & mapping		
Surveying			Other		

If you are an NSS member, what is your NSS number? _____

Other cave-related organizations that you belong to (CRF, other Grottos, etc): _____

The Boston Grotto web site lists members' names and e-mail addresses in a format resistant to spambots, to facilitate contact among member. Please circle **YES** or **NO** in response to the questions below. May we

- List your name and e-mail address on the Grotto web site? **YES** **NO**
- Publish your home phone number in *The Massachusetts Caver*? **YES** **NO**
- Publish your work or cell phone number in *The Massachusetts Caver*? **YES** **NO**
- Send you the newsletter in PDF format via e-mail instead of on paper? **YES** **NO**

Please make check payable to Boston Grotto, and send to:

Boston Grotto, PO Box 380304, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, MA 02138-0304



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Assumption of Risk and Liability

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the activities of the Boston Grotto of the National Speleological Society ("Club"), including, but not limited to, any and all cave exploration ("caving"), hiking, rock climbing, rappelling and ascending ropes, digging for cave entrances or extensions, training in techniques, participating in meetings, camping and traveling to and from remote sites,

I, (name) _____,

for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin, hereby:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I understand the nature of caving activities, and that I am in good physical and mental health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such activities. I further acknowledge that the activities will be conducted on private property, as well as on public land, roads and facilities open to the public, upon which hazardous conditions, structures, and actions by others are to be expected.
2. FULLY UNDERSTAND that: (a) caving is a physically strenuous and hazardous activity in which I participate at my own risk; (b) caving involves climbing, walking, swimming and crawling underground upon slick and crumbling surfaces, at times in confined and constricted spaces, through cold water, and in conditions of poor or no light; (c) caving exposes me to risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis, and death, from hazards, both obvious and obscure, including, but not limited to, injury by acts of other cavers, slipping, falling, being struck by falling objects, hypothermia, drowning, and other hazards not specifically set out in this document; (d) Club activities meant to provide training or practice in preparation for caving may involve substantially the same risks as caving; (e) traveling to the locations of Club activities exposes me to risks from crossing rough terrain, potential accident or illness in remote places, and the forces of nature and general risks of travel; (f) these risks and hazards may be caused by my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in Club activities, the conditions in which the activities take place, or the negligence of the "releasees" named below; (g) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages I incur as a result of my participation in Club activities.
3. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE that I plan to participate upon my own initiative in the Club activities, and warrant that if at any time while engaged in Club activities I believe conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately discontinue further participation in the activities, or will seek to discontinue the activities as quickly and safely as practical.
4. RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the Boston Grotto of the NSS (National Speleological Society) and the NSS itself, its officers, members, and assistants, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which Club activities take place (each considered one of the "releasees" herein) from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on my account, caused or alleged to have been caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the "releasees" or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the "releasees," I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the "releasees" from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, and any cost that may incur as the result of such claim.

LIMITATION: This release shall not apply to injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents to the extent that valid insurance coverage is afforded to any allegedly responsible party under a policy of motor vehicle insurance (including any no-fault and/or any umbrella coverage), BUT I agree that all claims for damages shall be limited to the limits of liability afforded under such coverages described in this paragraph.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, have signed it freely and without and inducement or assurance of any nature, intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law, and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, in spite of this, shall continue in full force and effect.

Signed _____ Date _____

Parent or guardian's signature, if under 18 years of age _____