



**BATS**  
Post Office Box 7784  
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7784

## **BATS Guest Policies**

Policy for guests to participate in an official BATS caving trip

### **GUEST POLICY GOAL:**

To present a caving opportunity for a member's guest, in a manner that is conscientious to BATS members planning and participating in a trip or other event. The Policy recognizes that members of a caving trip must rely on, and be able to trust, the knowledge, skill, commitment and integrity of the other members. Furthermore, as a limited resource, caves and karst must be protected from those who do not understand or appreciate caving ethics.

The policy applies to participation in official BATS events, and does not try to dictate the process by which members take others caving on private trips.

### **GUEST POLICIES:**

1. Guests must be sponsored by an active member of BATS, who is current in dues payment and who will be present on the trip.
2. The sponsor must be responsible for the guest's adherence to BATS' goals and policies.
3. The member and guest must sign the BATS Guest Liability Waiver prior to the trip.
4. Guests must attend an Orientation Session. Minor guests must have a parent or Legal Guardian present during the Orientation Session.
5. Guests are welcome to participate in BATS activities upon approval of the trip coordinator and participating members. If a guest shows up uninvited, without notice, not properly equipped, or without completing Items 3 and 4 above, they will not be allowed to participate.
6. Minor guests (under 18 years old) must sign, in addition to having parents or Legal Guardian(s), and the sponsoring member, sign the Guest Liability Waiver prior to the trip.
7. Guests are strongly encouraged to attend a BATS meeting, to provide an opportunity for members to meet the guest. Additionally, guests are encouraged to have visited a commercial or other cave type environment prior to participating in a BATS caving trip activity.
8. Guests, by signing the Guest Liability Waiver, agree to abide by the Guest Policies.

### **MAPS AND LOCATIONS:**

1. Guests agree to keep sensitive cave information and cave locations confidential, being mindful that, once divulged, the Guest shares responsibility for the actions of those told.

Guest Policies April 28, 2001

# Bats

Battlefield Area  
Troglodyte Society  
Of the National Speleological Society

## Guest

*Legal Release of All Claims Against  
The Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society  
and Members*

Trip Date: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
RELEASE made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_,  
by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of Guest) (address of Guest)

IN CONSIDERATION OF the permission granted to me by the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society to participate in the activities of such society to participate in the activities of such society, and their assistance therein, for use of their equipment and expertise, for being included in caving and other activities, and for other valuable consideration, I do hereby release and discharge the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society, its officers, members, employees, and agents, and land owners, whether acting officially or otherwise, from all causes of action whatsoever, damages, or claims of any nature arising out of or relating to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, which I, my heirs, estate, survivors, executors, administrators, or assigns may have against the above-described parties arising while in route to or from or out of my participation in any activity of the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society.

I AM FULLY AWARE that the activities in which I am to participate are inherently dangerous, involve, among other activities, exploring underground holes, caves, crevices, wet or dry passages, and unstable rock climbing, during which I may encounter animals, flooding and other unusual or sudden hazards, and that they present considerable opportunity for serious injury and damage to my person and property, including death. I assume the risk of such activities and release the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society, its officers, members, employees and agents from any actions arising out of such activities.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, have read this release, understand the danger presented by such activity, and understand all its terms. I execute this release voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this release on the date written above.

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** of Guest releasing all claims against The Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society and Members.

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** of Guest's Parents or Legal Guardians, if Guest is under 18 years of age on or before the Trip Date, agreeing to all of the above provisions and statements and agreeing to release all claims against The Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society and Members. A single signature above is certification by the signer that they are the sole Parent or Legal Guardian of the Guest.

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature** of Sponsoring Member of BATS

**Pledge: Take nothing but pictures, Kill nothing but time, and Leave no trace of you passage.**