



BATS
Post Office Box 7784
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7784

BATS Member Policies

Member Policy Goal:

To present an environment for expanding knowledge and skills concerning caving and to promote cave conservation and safe caving. BATS members are expected to:

- Demonstrate competence, and be fully prepared, in their caving activities.
- Be courteous, and reflect the utmost dignity on BATS and other caving organizations.
- Respect the rights and preferences of other BATS members.
- Recognize that all members of a caving trip must rely on, and be able to trust, the knowledge, skill, commitment and integrity of other members.
- Promote and be active in cave conservation activities.
- Foster relations between cave owners and cavers, and respect cave restrictions.
- Participate in regional and national caving organizations and projects.
- Protect the knowledge of caves and locations shared among the membership.

Member Policies:

1. Failure to abide by the Goals stated above may result in termination of BATS membership.
2. Potential new members are encouraged to attend several meetings prior to joining. The attendance of several meetings will assure that the potential member and existing members get to know each other, and the potential member understands the commitments of BATS membership.
3. Each member must read, understand and sign the Member Liability Waiver.
4. Prior to participating in a caving trip, new members must attend an Orientation Session. New members are expected to be candid concerning previous caving experience to assure that the Orientation Session is effective and cave visits are chosen appropriately.
5. Minor members (under 18 years old) must have a parent or a Legal Guardian sign the Member Liability Waiver. Minor members are required to have a parent attend one or more meetings. Minor members must have a parent or Legal Guardian accompany them on BATS activities.
6. A BATS Orientation Session must be led by a qualified BATS member, in good standing, and follow the official BATS written guidelines. Members who have assisted in presenting at least two Orientation Sessions are qualified to lead an Orientation Session.
7. Members will endeavor to assure that their guests are properly prepared to participate in a BATS activity, and that they are willing to and will abide by all BATS policies.

Maps and Locations:

1. Copies of maps are often shared with BATS members participating in trips.
2. Cave locations are to be shared only with cavers known to be responsible and who share basic cave conservation ethics. Remember, once you divulge a location, you share responsibility for the actions of those you have told.
3. Members are expected to keep cave information and locations confidential.

Member Policies April 28, 2001



Member

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

BATS

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Chapter of the National Speleological Society

RELEASE made this _____ day of _____ in the year _____,

by _____ of _____
(name of Member or Member Applicant) (address of Member or Member Applicant)

IN CONSIDERATION OF the membership in, and permission granted to me by the Battlefield Area Troglodyte 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 Member, or Applicant Member, releasing all claims against The Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society and Members.

_____ date _____ AND _____ date _____
Signature of Member or Applicant Members Parents or Legal GuardianS, if Party is under 18 years of age, 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 Minor Member or Applicant Member.

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