David Brumbaugh, 64667RE, California



I have been working at Carlsbad Caverns National Park for the past five years, but was recently offered a job at Yosemite National Park. This will be my first career position in the last 20 years that was not cave focused, so I will be needing to get underground as soon as possible. I have served as the secretary for the Southwest Region of the NSS (2021). In 2020, I was the vice president for the Pecos Valley Grotto, and the two years prior to that, I was the chairman for the PVG. I have been involved in many cave-survey trips, mock rescues, and restoration trips all over the continent, and I have had the honor of conducting some in Lechuguilla Cave. I have led Single Rope Technique instruction sessions for the FBI and led an FBI Special Ops Caving Mission.

My partner, Melissa, was the Cave and Karst Environmental Protection Specialist for the Carlsbad Bureau of Land Management Field Office, and our daughter, Rose, is a very proud Junior Ranger for the National Park Service. She has educated many people about caves, and as a father/daughter duo, we have given educational cave programs to crowds of over 1,000 people. We are a passionate caving family. I am a 3rd generation caver, raising the 4th generation.

My degree is in Elementary Education, but I worked in caves throughout college and during the summers when I was a teacher. Prior to Carlsbad, I managed a tourist cave in Pennsylvania called Penn's Cave. My father has worked there for over forty years and my grandmother was the first female cave guide there. I started at Penn's Cave in 2004. From 2010 to 2013, I worked at Horne Lake Caves Provincial Park on Vancouver Island as the lead vertical cave guide. I was very active in British Columbia Cave Rescue and VICEG (Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group). Later, my partner and I worked at the Caverns of Sonora in Texas. Melissa and I have both entered cave songs for the NSS annual Cave Ballad Salon; and have both won a few awards at the NSS conventions. Melissa has been featured in the NSS News for her cave photography. It would be an honor to be considered for the BOG. My primary platform would be based on increasing membership and cave and karst education. I have already contributed to the NSS Speleoguest program by presenting to school classrooms. As the Chairman for the Pecos Valley Grotto, I tripled our membership. I feel that my passion for caves and ability to reach a wide variety of people could greatly contribute to the mission of the National Speleological Society.