

Travis J. Camp, 65974RL, Tennessee

ocoekayaker@gmail.com



I started caving in the summer of 2012, my first trip was a wild cave tour in Jewel Cave National Monument led by Park Rangers. In 2013 I moved back to Wyoming for a summer job opportunity and really jumped into the sport with the help of some new friends and the Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto. When I moved back to Tennessee that fall I started attending meetings with the Sewanee Mountain Grotto. With the help of friends made in these two organizations I learned vertical skills, began survey work and eventually learned how to sketch. Because of my traveling lifestyle at the time it was really difficult to pursue a role in Grotto leadership but it did allow me to meet and become friends with cavers from across the country. This opened up

opportunities to participate in survey work in Colorado, Montana and Tennessee. Some of my favorite memories are surveying in Belize with the Desert Dogs and the Boundary Fault Discovery Team, digging up Pleistocene era bones in Wyoming with Des Moines University Paleontologists and a survey trip into South Dakota's Jewel Cave.

In addition to my passion for caving, I am an avid whitewater boater, hiker, backpacker and traveler. I am a Speech - Language Pathologist by trade specializing in dysphagia management and transnasal endoscopy. Within my profession, I am an educator, mentor, clinician and participate in research. My professional life has given me a skill set that includes being a productive and efficient leader, one - on -one mentor, educator and trainer as well as the ability to think and work outside of the box.

Having spent time caving in both the eastern and western parts of the country I have had the honor of meeting and working with cavers that cave in very different ways. From alpine caving to TAG pit bouncing, I see the value and appreciate the differences in these styles of caving. If elected to the Board of Governors, I would like to see a continued increase in NSS membership numbers, engage with both new and existing members in order to find ways to better serve local grotto's. I would encourage conservation and ethical exploration by increasing the NSS's support for both conservationists and surveyors. I would also like to grow the volunteer arm of the NSS in order to continue expanding upon all the good work the society has done since its founding in 1941.