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RELEASE DATE:

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National Speleological Society Announces Cancellation of 2020 NSS Convention in Elkins, WV

NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL

Dear NSS Friends,

After much listening, discussion, careful consideration, and in accordance with federal, state, and local recommendations, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NSS Convention. Given the terrible realities of COVID-19, one of the greatest global challenges of our lifetimes, we believe this is the prudent and right thing to do.

Yes, we are heartbroken. We know you are too. However, public health and the well-being of our members, our staff, and our neighbors in the Elkins, West Virginia, community are our highest priorities.

This decision requires a complete change in logistics. To those of you who preregistered—in the coming weeks, we will be establishing the mechanisms needed to process refunds. You will be contacted individually with your options to proceed, one of which will be a 100% refund.

We are also considering available options for conducting some elements of the convention virtually. In the interim, we kindly ask for your patience, as we thought it best to inform everyone of this development sooner rather than later.

To the 2020 Convention staff—we give our most sincere thanks for all the efforts you made. It's in difficult times like these that we truly realize what a great group of caving friends we have, and we look forward to working with you again.

We are now looking to reschedule the West Virginia convention for 2023, and we are still moving forward with the planned 2021 Convention in Weed, California, and 2022 Convention in Custer, South Dakota.

Until we can once more crawl a muddy crawl or party around a bonfire together—stay smart, stay safe, stay healthy.

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The National Speleological Society With 7,000 members and 250 grottos (chapters), the National Speleological Society is the largest organization in the world working every day to further the exploration, study, and protection of caves and their environments, and foster fellowship among cavers.

For over 75 years, the National Speleological Society has promoted safe and responsible caving practices, effective cave and karst management, speleology, and conservation. Our members are bound together by their love of caves and caving and their desire to learn about the underground wilderness and protect it for future generations.

NSS membership offers worldwide caver camaraderie and networking opportunities and access to information about discoveries and developments in caving, speleology, equipment, and techniques through our publications, annual conventions, grottos and other internal organizations, and NSS-sponsored projects, expeditions, and surveys.