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National Speleological Society Appoints new NCRC Liaison, Marty Reames

NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL — In early February, Education Division Chief, Devra Heyer, selected Marty Reames as the NSS/NCRC Liaison. Marty's work as an instructor, the NCRC scholarship chair and work on the original NCRC Code of Conduct made her the obvious choice for the new position. "Marty has previously worked on GAP analysis, creating new programs, planning strategies and implementation; giving her a skillset that I greatly value for the liaison position," stated Education Division Chief, Devra Heyer.

The position of National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) Liaison was established to give both the NSS leadership and the NCRC leadership an increased understanding of the needs and efforts of each respective group. This position is meant to foster increased support for both sets of involved volunteers. This position will also ensure that the NCRC stays in alignment with board acts passed by the NSS Board of Governors (BOG), and directives passed down by the office of the Administrative Vice President (AVP). To accomplish these tasks the Liaison will:

1. Review the NSS Board of Governors Manual, the NCRC Charter, SOGs, and other NCRC governance documentation to make sure that all are currently in alignment. Will make suggestions to the pertinent group to correct discrepancies. Will attend BORG and Education Division meetings.
2. Serves as an advisor to the NCRC National Coordinator, Board of Regional Coordinators (BORG), AVP, and education division chief, to foster a great working relationship between all involved and advocate at all times for interactions that will make the best environment for our volunteer base.
3. Will work with the NCRC National Coordinator to advocate for needed support from the AVP and education division chief, as well as assist in getting the word out about NCRC successes and events to the larger NSS community.
4. Will work with the NSS Education Division Chief to inform the NCRC BORG and NCRC National Coordinator of NSS policy changes upcoming and directives from the NSS leadership. Will seek to be proactive in information gathering and processing.
5. Will fill other duties as directed by the NSS education chief or AVP to support the missions of the NCRC and NSS.

"My vision of the NCRC Liaison position is that it would give a clear communication channel and governance but would not be the only way to facilitate communication and collaboration between the two organizations. I would like to create a culture that any member of the BORG can freely share, with the AVP or myself, any of their concerns or ideas," stated Devra Heyer.

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For over 70 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, their desire to learn about the underground wilderness, and their commitment to protect it for future generations.

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

With 7,000+ members and more than 200 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.