

## **Thunder Hole Cave System Preserve Management Plan**

The property containing what is known as Thunder Hole Cave in Putnam County, Tennessee is privately owned by Jason Cathey. Access to the cave is to be managed jointly by Jason Cathey and the National Speleological Society (NSS) subject to the attached Preserve Management Plan.

### **Access Policy and Visitation**

Contact the Preserve Managers at [thunderholecommittee@caves.org](mailto:thunderholecommittee@caves.org) or 931-510-0791 or 610-368-6471 if you have any questions about the preserve.

1. Permission is required to visit the cave preserve.
2. Permits may be obtained by emailing the property managers at [thunderholecommittee@caves.org](mailto:thunderholecommittee@caves.org) or calling the property managers at numbers listed herein (931-510-0791/610-368-6471). Membership in the NSS is not required but is strongly suggested for the trip leader and for any participants in the trip. All participants will be required to sign a liability release form attached hereto releasing all parties for any injuries or death that may occur while on the premises at the expressed or implied invitation of either party.
3. Access to the cave and the preserve is further protected by the Recreational Use Statute of the State of Tennessee.
4. Permit for access to the preserve will be issued in the name of the individual requesting the permit and that individual will be responsible for the group as well as personally ensuring that all members of the group abide by the terms of the permit and this management plan. The permit holder is responsible for seeing that none of the trip participants enter any area which might be flagged off or barricaded because of the sensitive nature of such area on the preserve or in the cave.
5. Visitors may be asked to show their permit while in the preserve and may be asked to show their permit by either the property managers, law enforcement personnel or owners.
6. To minimize impact on the cave, the NSS and preserve management committee prefers that groups visiting the cave be small. For reasons of both conservational and safety, the preserve management committee limits the number of people at the cave to no more than 8 and no less than 3. There can be no more than two groups to be given a permit for any one day by the NSS and the preserve management committee subject to exceptions for special events.
7. The management committee manages only Thunder Hole Cave and access to the cave. Any other caves that are near the property within the preserve boundary are not subject to this management agreement. Going anywhere on the preserve other than the designated entrance and exit way and the parking area is prohibited.
8. Park only in designated areas and drive only on existing roads. Do not block access to roads or gates.

9. If there are any gates on the preserve leading from the parking area to the cave, they are to remain locked at all times except when entering or leaving the preserve.
10. In the event of special events, in order to avoid parking and overuse problems, access to the property will be limited to those trips organized through the property manager committee.
11. Hunting in any form is not allowed on the property.
12. Camping on the cave preserve property is not permitted. Campfires are not allowed. All users are required to help keep the property clean and to respect the rights of the property owners. Please remove any and all trash or garbage you might find from the property.
13. No plants, trees or other wildlife may be removed from the preserve. Avoid disturbing any wildlife on the preserve. Cave flora, fauna and cultural resources are to be left undisturbed. In addition, do not touch, break, or remove any formations from the cave. Do not cut trees for firewood or any other purpose. Fires are specifically prohibited. Anyone found defacing the cave or formations or causing harm to the plants and wildlife of the preserve will be subject to prosecution under both state and federal law and is subject to being banned from this preserve and any NSS preserve.
14. Remove any trash that you bring to the preserve or that you observe. Spray painting, carbide marking, or any other types of graffiti are never permitted. Vandalism and abuse of the cave or the surface area or any properties of the property owners will be prosecuted. Modification of the cave or preserve in any manner including placing of bolts or artificial anchors, marking or constructing trails, cutting trees or brush or other similar activities are specifically prohibited without written permission from the managing committee and/or the owner. Alterations to the natural morphology of the cave and surrounding landscape such as digging new entrance or excavating passages can have dramatic effects on the cave's climate and changing temperature. Such alterations are not permitted. No collection of specimens, artifacts or any type of natural or cultural resources from the preserve or cave is permitted without written permission from the owner.
15. No smoking of any type is permitted in the cave or on the property. Use of any alcohol products or drugs of any type on the property is prohibited.

**Commercial Use Statement**

The Board of the National Speleological Society (NSS) reaffirms its standing policy that bans the commercial use of any properties owned or managed in any way by the Society. No activity of any type or any charge of any type is made is allowed. The management committee specifically disallows any activity that would jeopardize the use of the recreational use statute as a defense to any claims brought against the owner and/or managers of the property.

Permission is hereby granted to \_\_\_\_\_ to visit the cave property on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the provisions of the preserve management plan.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Preserve Manager

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date