



NEVADA CAVE SURVEY

EXPLORE · STUDY · PROTECT

CANDIDATE

APPLICATION PACKET

This packet contains

- PART I — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**
- PART II — CAVING CODE OF CONDUCT**
- PART III — MEMBER CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM (×3 COPIES)**
- PART IV — MEMBERSHIP DUES & PAYMENT**

*Cave location data and access information are sensitive resources.
Please complete each section honestly and in full.*



PART I · MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

This form may be completed digitally — click into any field or box below and type. Please submit it along with the Caving Code of Conduct and three completed Character Reference Forms to the NCS Membership Committee.

1 APPLICANT INFORMATION

FULL LEGAL NAME	NSS NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)
EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
CITY & STATE	GROTTO / CAVING ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)
EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME	EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE

2 EXPERIENCE & BACKGROUND

What is your experience level with caving and/or vertical rope work?

☐ New to Caving	☐ Some Experience	☐ Experienced	☐ Highly Experienced	☐ Professional
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Briefly describe your caving background — notable trips, training, or mentors:

Do you hold any relevant certifications (NSS-CTS, SRT, Wilderness First Aid, Rope Access, etc.)?



PART I · MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

3 ABOUT YOU & THE NCS

1. Why would you like to become a part of the Nevada Cave Survey?

2. How will membership in the NCS benefit you?

3. How will you contribute to the values, resolve, and growth of the NCS?

4. What specialized skills could you contribute (photography, cartography, biology, GIS, medical, rigging, etc.)?

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEVADA CAVE SURVEY?

4 APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand it will be reviewed by the NCS Membership Committee.



APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE



PART II · CAVING CODE OF CONDUCT

By participating in the Nevada Cave Survey, I agree to the following code of conduct.

1 SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

- Only enter caves with adequate skills, gear, and personnel. Never cave alone.
- If leading new cavers on trips, brief them on this code of conduct.

2 CONSERVATION RESPONSIBILITY

- Practice Leave No Trace: pack out all waste, and minimize mud/dirt tracking, especially on formations.
- Do not alter caves. No marking, breaking, or removing natural features. Temporary survey markers are acceptable during surveys.
- For caves with established trails, stay on trails and avoid creating new paths.
- Be vigilant about the presence of cultural artifacts or scientifically important deposits/features. Do not disturb or remove any finds, and report them to the Nevada Cave Survey board to facilitate coordination with land managers or stewards.

3 WILDLIFE PROTECTION

- Do not disturb bats or other sensitive cave fauna. Minimize noise and light exposure to wildlife. If hibernating bats are encountered, quietly leave the area.
- Respect all closures and access restrictions set by land managers or owners.
- The White-Nose fungus is now present in Nevada. Use properly cleaned caving gear to reduce the risk of cross-contamination between caves.

4 INFORMATION & ACCESS ETHICS

- Protect cave locations. Do not share locations on public platforms — this includes maps or photos with written or embedded coordinates, and entrance photos with identifiable landmarks.
- Credit discoverers, contributors, or organizing groups when publicly sharing reports, photos, or scientific publications.
- Try to avoid exploring new leads without permission from the original discoverers or coordinating group.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT *I understand that caves are non-renewable resources and that my actions impact safety, conservation, and the community. I agree to prioritize conservation, safety, and ethical cooperation. If I violate any legal codes, I understand I can be penalized for my actions, up to and including penalties by federal or state land managers.*

APPLICANT NAME (PRINTED)



APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE



The Nevada Cave Survey (NCS) relies on trust, discretion, and respect among its members. Cave location data and access information are sensitive resources that, if mishandled, can lead to vandalism, over-visitation, or permanent site damage. As a referee for the applicant listed below, your candid assessment is essential to maintaining the integrity of our organization.

Please complete this form honestly and return it to the NCS Membership Committee at membership@nevadacavesurvey.org.

1 APPLICANT & REFEREE INFORMATION

APPLICANT NAME (PERSON APPLYING FOR NCS MEMBERSHIP)

YOUR NAME (REFEREE)	YOUR OCCUPATION / ORGANIZATION
PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS

HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE APPLICANT, AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

2 CHARACTER & TRUSTWORTHINESS ASSESSMENT

Honesty & Integrity — Does this person demonstrate truthfulness and transparency?

☐ 1 — Poor	☐ 2 — Fair	☐ 3 — Average	☐ 4 — Good	☐ 5 — Excellent	☐ Unable to Rate
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Discretion — Can this person be trusted to keep sensitive information confidential?

☐ 1 — Poor	☐ 2 — Fair	☐ 3 — Average	☐ 4 — Good	☐ 5 — Excellent	☐ Unable to Rate
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Reliability — Does this person follow through on commitments?

☐ 1 — Poor	☐ 2 — Fair	☐ 3 — Average	☐ 4 — Good	☐ 5 — Excellent	☐ Unable to Rate
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Respect for Rules & Guidelines — Does this person adhere to rules even without oversight?

☐ 1 — Poor	☐ 2 — Fair	☐ 3 — Average	☐ 4 — Good	☐ 5 — Excellent	☐ Unable to Rate
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Judgment & Maturity — Does this person demonstrate sound decision-making?

☐ 1 — Poor	☐ 2 — Fair	☐ 3 — Average	☐ 4 — Good	☐ 5 — Excellent	☐ Unable to Rate
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3 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

To your knowledge, has this person ever misused confidential or sensitive information? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Do you believe this person would handle cave location/access data responsibly? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Has this person ever demonstrated behavior that endangered people, wildlife, or sensitive environments? ☐ Yes
☐ No ☐ Unsure

Would you personally vouch for this individual as a trusted colleague or peer? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

4 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please share anything else relevant to this applicant's character, trustworthiness, or suitability for NCS membership:

5 REFEREE CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided above is truthful and based on my genuine personal knowledge of the applicant. I understand this form is confidential and will be reviewed only by the NCS Membership Committee.

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PART IV · MEMBERSHIP DUES & PAYMENT

Dues may be paid using any of the options below. Zelle is preferred, as it carries no processing fees.

ZELLE · NO FEES	VENMO
NEVADA CAVE SURVEY nevadacavesurvey  zelle Tag: nevadacavesurvey admin@nevadacaves.org	 Tag: @NevadaCS venmo.com/u/NevadaCS

PAYPAL Also accepted — a small processing fee applies. Tag: @nevadacaves Link: paypal.biz/nevadacaves