

On the Loose

Heart of America Council

Camping & High Adventure

Guidebook

Everything you need to know
about more than 90 of the best
camps in the region



Including more than 60 High
Adventure opportunities

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<http://signal.baldwincity.com/news/2011/oct/20/local-boy-scouts-troop-remained-busy-during-summer/>

http://i4.yimg.com/vi/obn8RVY_szM/mgdefault.jpg

http://www.sccovington.com/philmont/trek_info/equipment/tents.htm

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*Additional copies of this publication are available
through the*

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at the Heart of America Council*

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Section 3: Caves



In the following pages you will find a sampling of the caves in Missouri which your Scout Troop may want to visit and explore. We have tried to bring you, as many “wild caves” as possible, but a listing of commercial caves is also included. Note in the cave descriptions that most of the commercial caves provide a special program to Scouts. These are programs, which the “typical” tourist does not get to experience, and may be well suited for you.

Understand that there are over 5,000 caves in the state of Missouri. Some of these caves are little more than holes in the ground, not worth the effort to drive to and offer no excitement, while others are spectacular, but only well-seasoned spelunkers venture to explore their depths.

Perhaps your troop will be interested in adding spelunking to your annual program. The Missouri Speleological Society (MSS) works with Scout Troops to assist them in learning the basics of safe caving, and perhaps helping to organize and/or guide cave explorations. You may notice in the cave descriptions that often times, a cave guide is available. Most often these are people who are members of the MSS, or are closely associated with the MSS, and are very qualified experienced spelunkers. As a Scout leader, if you are not comfortable taking your Troop into a cave, the resource of cave guides should help lead your Scouts into the wonder of the underground world regardless of your personal experience and/or skills. Numerous caving clubs can be accessed through the World Wide Web at www.ums.edu/~joellaws/ozark_caving/mss/karst.htm.

In order to ensure that your troop knows the basics of safe caving and normal caving practices and procedures, the Kansas City grotto requires the Troop to attend the Underground Laboratory. The Underground Laboratory is a program which teaches the basics of caving to Scout Troops and prepares the troop for an adventurous, safe and fun caving trip with the Kansas City grotto. The Kansas City grotto explores carious caves in the western part of the state and in the Lake of the Ozarks region. They welcome troops to contact them to set up a cave trip – Only after the Underground Laboratory Experience has been completed.

Therefore, it is the scope of this publication to list only a few caves, which represent literally hundreds more, which can be explored. Feel free to contact any of the people listed on the following pages about the caves which they are associated with. These people have agreed to work with your Troop in setting up a caving outing. If your troop has some considerable cave experience, the grotto directors can assist you in setting up a trip to a more challenging cave, which is not listed here.

Please give at least a 30-day notice before the date you desire to make this outing. If you arrange for a cave guide, be advised that this person will be traveling and caving on his or her own time and funds. They may request a small fee to cover their transportation, etc... I think you will agree that reimbursing the guide a small fee is well worth the security of having a caving expert along during the trip.

The caves of Missouri are a fantastic resource, which Scout Troops are welcome to enjoy. Good Caving!

MISSOURI THE CAVE STATE

A cave is a natural underground opening large enough to explore. Therefore, a cave may be a rock shelter, or a pit opening in the bottom of a sinkhole, or a cavernous, many-roomed passage deep in the earth.

Missouri presently claims over 5,000 including 26 commercial caves that are open to the public. Kentucky, Virginia and several other states also may have many caves and a vast amount of Speleological material is published and available. Speleology is a cave science; speleologists are scientist or researchers. A spelunker is a cave enthusiast, explorer; a “sport caver”. Everyone – including spelunkers and speleologists – is welcome in the large commercial caves of Missouri, but not so in the wild undeveloped caves on private property. True, although non-commercial caves are not open to the public, permission from the owner can usually be gained for visits. But woe to ye who trespass – ye shall be prosecuted – usually by a shotgun blast from the north-forth cornfield!

Once entrance is gained, caving can be a save, interesting, and challenging activity. Three of the largest caves in Missouri are wild caves – each is wet, muddy, long and displays some of the most fantastic cave formations to be found in the state. In spit of news stories, people are seldom lost in caves. Danger is being trapped in a flooding cave or slipping and falling into a sinkhole entrance.

There is life in caves. Bats are abundant and often come out in the evenings to catch insects. Salamanders, blind fish and crayfish, crickets, beetles, flies, and other insects also inhabit caves. A cave can be a true paradise for a biologist or an entomologist. Snakes, sometimes found in or near cave entrances, seldom go inside a cave because the temperature is not conducive to their survival.

Indeed, caves are part of a fragile environment, which we seldom encounter. Missouri recognizes its caves as a valuable resource worth protecting. The Scout Oath and Law and the Outdoor Code must always be followed in caving, as with any outdoor activity. Remember, it only takes a few rotten apples to spoil the fun for everyone. Just a few infractions of the rules of Scouting and common sense, and the PRIVILEGE of caving for Scout units WILL be seriously endangered.

**TAKE NOTHING BUT
PICTURES, LEAVE
NOTHING BUT
FOOTPRINTS!**



HISTORICAL AND CURRENT USES OF CAVES IN MISSOURI

Aboriginal Communities
Air Conditioning
Beer Cooling
Beer Gardens
Burial Crypts
Caving
Dead Animal Dumps
Fallout Shelters
Guano Mining
Hay Barns
Homes
Honey Dipper Dumps
Hospitals
Implement Sheds
Meeting Rooms
Moonshining
Mushroom Farming
Music Shows
Onyx Mining
Outlaw Hideouts
Research Laboratories
Restaurants
Saltpeter Mining
Seismograph Stations
Tourism
Trash Dumps
Treasure Stashing
Water Supply

HAZARDOUS SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

The general policy of Scouting is to train youth to do safely the many things they normally do, such as swimming and boating; handling firearms, knives, and axes; riding bicycles; and hiking and camping. Scouting's disapproval or restriction of hazardous sports and activities is a positive policy to keep fun in the program and to develop sound judgment through experience. It is consistent with our principle of safety through skill on the part of leaders and youth. Be sure to check the Boy Scouts of America's current ***Guide To Safe Scouting*** before any activity to ensure that your unit is in compliance with all activity requirements. Copies of the guide can be found on the BSA World Wide Web at WWW.BSA.ORG or by contacting your local Scout Service Center.

ON THE LOOSE - *CAVES*

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BEAR CAVE CAMDEN COUNTY

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

256 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

TYPICAL EXPLORATION

TIME:

2 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Bridal Cave
Route 2, Box 255
Camdenton, MO 65020
(573) 346-2676
www.bridalcave.com

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Bear Cave is a wild cave located on the property of Bridal Cave. The Bridal Cave staff offers an educational tour of Bear Cave, which includes a tour of Bridal Cave and an interpretive nature hike. Bear Cave demonstrates what a wild caving experience is like and offers some muddy playing! This opportunity is ideal for Scout Troops to add some extra fun into their program! The whole program lasts two hours. Register in advance!

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Typical cave critters

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Call phone number given for directions to nearby campsite

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

BROWN'S CAVE DOUGLAS COUNTY

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2,660 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

TYPICAL EXPLORATION

TIME:

2 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Kathy Rapp
PO Box 113
Cedar Creek MO 65627
Phone (417) 785-4431

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: This is a real fun cave to explore and GET MUDDY. During most times of the year, this cave is extremely muddy, but a lot of fun to be in. The cave contains some nice formations and is a great cave for Scouts to explore.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Close to Ava, MO

CAVE GUIDE: Available and required.

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

23,760 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

3-4 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Mark Twain Cave
Highway 79
Hannibal, MO 63401
Phone (573) 221-1656

CAMERON CAVE

MARION COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: This lantern lit tour is superior to the Mark Twain Cave as it is a lot less worn and commercialized. It is a maze cave with many intersecting passages. Provides more of an experience of 'being Tom Sawyer' than the commercial Mark Twain Cave does. Some neat crystals and flowstone exist in the cave.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, cave moths, crickets

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Mark Twain Cave campground

CAVE GUIDE: Required. Provided by the cave management

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

Various

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

8 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Kathy Rapp
PO Box 113
Cedar Creek MO 65627
Phone (573) 221-1656
800-527-0304 for
campground

CANE BLUFF CAVES

TANEY COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: There are 4 distinct caves within close proximity. They are Heusel, Silvey, Clayton, and Caney I,II,III. Most all of these caves are relatively high. All of the caves except Heusel are relatively dry and mazy. Heusel is a good mud cave. This set of caves is an excellent opportunity for Boy Scout Troops.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, frogs, and salamanders

WATER SOURCE: Yes, creek

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Hercules Glades Wilderness Area

CAVE GUIDE: Available and required

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

16,000 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

2 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Onondaga Cave State
Park

Route 1 Box 115
Leasburg, MO 65535
Phone (573) 245-6576

CATHEDRAL CAVE

CRAWFORD COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Commercial cave, by tour only. Cathedral Cave is relatively wild and very pretty. Park naturalist staff rather than professional guides provide tours. Onondaga Cave is located within the park also. Good cave choice if the Scouts are not geared for a wild cave.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, frogs, salamanders, stream critters, blind salamanders. There are also pools with more animals.

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Onondaga State Park

CAVE GUIDE: Required. Provided by Park Naturalist.

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

1 mile

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

6 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Rockbridge State Park
Columbia, MO 65201
Phone (573) 449-7402

DEVIL'S ICEBOX

BOONE COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Very physically challenging for a Boy Scout troop. Lots of mud & plenty of crawling.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Not provided.

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Rockbridge State Park; Columbia, Missouri

CAVE GUIDE: Guide required

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

6,500 Feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

Several hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Russ Campbell
Route 20, Box 1935
Springfield, MO 65803
(417) 833-2010
www.fantasticcaverns.com

FANTASTIC CAVERNS

GREEN COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Fantastic Caverns is a show cave, but the cave staff offers an educational program called 'Living in Cave Country'. The program relates cave and karst topography to our life. The program is 2 hours long, with 1 hour spent on the surface and the other hour spent inside the cave studying the relationship between the surface and the subsurface. The program is only available in the months of March, April, and through May 15.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Various stream and cave critters

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Near Springfield, MO

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2 miles

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

4 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Meramec State Park
Highway 185 South
Sullivan, MO 63080
(573) 468-6072
800-334-6946
www.moparks.gov

FISHER CAVE

FRANKLIN COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Plenty of 'off-the-beaten' trail, which is led by Park Naturalist. This is a very pretty lantern lit tour.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Meramec State Park; Sullivan, Missouri

CAVE GUIDE: Required. Provided by park naturalist

INDIAN CREEK CAVERNS STONE COUNTY

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

3 miles

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

TYPICAL EXPLORATION TIME:

4 ½ hours

MORE INFORMATION:

Silver Dollar City
Marvel Cave Park, MO
65616
(660) 338-8220

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Lots of crawlways make this mazy cave a super caving experience. There are also plenty of big passageways which round out the cave. The biggest highlight of this cave is the MUD! It's a great cave for a Scout Troop who wants to explore a very large cave and get really muddy doing it! Both Talking Rocks Cave (rappelling) and Powell Cave are located on the property.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Salamanders, crickets

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Primitive facility under development at cave site

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

3,100 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

TYPICAL EXPLORATION TIME:

1 hour

MORE INFORMATION:

Frank Hurley
Route 2, Box 129
Versailles, MO 65084
(816) 378-4374
jacobscave@earthlink.net

JACOB'S CAVE MORGAN COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Beautiful formations. Very interesting gift shop specializing in rocks of all kinds - owner is very interesting. There are two wild (small) caves which were dug open in 1991 by Lake Ozark Grotto on the property - right on the campground. There is a blacklight display in the first room of Jacob's Cave and a bone display. There is a maze area not on commercial route. Special arrangement could be made with owner to explore the maze area.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats and salamanders

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Primitive campground on cave property - beautiful site!

CAVE GUIDE: Professionally guided

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2,700 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

3-6 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Middle Mississippi
Valley Grotto
3820 Juniata
St Louis, MO 63115-
4814
(660) 772-6956

LONE HILL ONYX CAVE**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Easy cave to move about in. Much cave biota is available for identification. Featured in 1956 National Geographic. Lots of mud and cave formations. A 'fun' wild cave experience. Cave maps are available from: Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Geological Survey, 111 Fairgrounds Rd., Rolla, MO 65401 (314) 364-1752.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Many cave animals including: Ahipods, Bats, Isopods, Collumbua, Cave/slimy salamanders, Leopard/Pickeral Frogs and crickets.

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Meramec State Park; Sullivan, Missouri

CAVE GUIDE: Totally optional, but available

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

8,600 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

2 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Onondaga Cave State
Park
Route 1 Box 115
Leasburg, MO 65535
Phone (573) 245-6576
Cave Tours (573) 245-
6600

ONONDAGA CAVE**CRAWFORD COUNTY**

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Commercial cave, by tour only. This is the prettiest, most onyx filled cave in the whole state. This is an excellent selection if the Scouts are not geared up for wild caving. Onondaga Cave has the second highest room of any show cave in the United States.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, frogs, and salamanders, stream critters. There are also pools with animals.

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Onondaga State Park

CAVE GUIDE: Professionally guided

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

3,500 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

45 minutes to 1 hour

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Ozark Caverns
Route 1, Box 371
Linn Creek, MO 65052
(573) 348-2694

OZARK CAVERNS

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: The tour is conducted by lantern (no electricity) and shows basic cave features and the relationship between the surface and the subsurface. This educational tour also focuses on the animal life within a cave. The tours can be almost any length, but typically are 1 hour long. Many groups visit the cave and then travel on to Ha Ha Tonka State Park or enjoy activities on the Lake of the Ozarks.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Ha Ha Tonka (30 min) and a campsite on the Lake 4 miles away

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2,600 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

3-6 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Jim Leck
Camdenton, MO 65020
No Number Listed

PERKINS CAVE

CAMDEN COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Excellent beginners cave. Some crawling adds to the wild cave experience, about 360-ft worth. Cave is muddy all year long. Some cave formations, but the cave is relatively young. Must sign a liability waiver with owner before entering. Some basic rock climbing skills are needed in a few areas, but no technical equipment is required.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders, and frogs

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Camping is available inside cave

CAVE GUIDE: Preferred

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

16,000 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

2 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Onondaga Cave State

Park

Route 1 Box 115

Leasburg, MO 65535

Phone (573) 245-6576

PIKE'S PEAK CAVE

PULASKI COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: The length of this cave naturally makes this cave an excellent choice for a group of Scouts. There are also numerous formations, which make the cave very interesting to explore. The cave entrance is easily found.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Gasconade River Area

CAVE GUIDE: No

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

400 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

1 hour

MORE

INFORMATION:

Silver Dollar City

Marvel Cave Park, MO

65616

No Phone Listed

POWELL CAVE

TANEY COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Some small crawlways make Powell Cave a fun experience especially for younger Scouts. The Scouts can have lots of fun while the adult leaders can relax. Also Talking Rocks Cave and Indian Creek Caverns (rappelling) are located nearby.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Crickets

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Primitive facility under development at cave site

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

3,500 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

2-3 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Kathy Rapp
PO Box 113
Cedar Creek MO 65627
No Number Listed

ROCKHOUSE CAVE

BARRY COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: This cave is a relatively dry cave. It is a neat cave to climb around in, but does not require any technical gear. Good cave for beginners

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Roaring River State Park, near Cassville, MO

CAVE GUIDE: Available and required

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

4,000 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

6 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

President,
MSM Spelunkers Club
Dept of Geology &
Geophysics
125 McNutt Hall,
Rolla, MO 65401
Phone (573) 341-4616

SALTPETER CAVE

PHELPS COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Numerous bats, large formation room, and many other interesting formations.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Mark Twain National Forest

CAVE GUIDE: No guide available

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2,500 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

2-3 hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Kathy Rapp
PO Box 113
Cedar Creek, MO 65627
(417) 785-4431

SPAGHETTI CAVE

STONE COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: From the name, this cave is a maze cave. It is full of interlocking passages with some tight spots. It is, however, a dry cave, which lends itself to beginning caverns. There are some neat formations and plenty of passageways are waiting to be explored.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders, and frogs

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Near Galena, MO

CAVE GUIDE: Available and required.

TYPE OF CAVE

Show

LENGTH OF CAVE:

600 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Dry

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION
TIME:***

4 or more hours

**MORE
INFORMATION:**

Silver Dollar City
Marvel Cave Park, MO
65616
(417) 338-8220
www.talkingrockcave.com

TALKING ROCKS CAVE

STONE COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: Even though this is a rather small cave, it is said to be the most beautiful cave in Missouri. There are over 100,000 living formations in the cave. For Boy Scout troops, a rappelling wall is inside the cave where you can learn the basics of rappelling while inside the cave! The rappelling is not part of the regular tour, but since there are several caves nearby this offers a special opportunity for Scout units.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Salamanders, crickets

WATER SOURCE: No

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: Primitive facility under development at cave site

CAVE GUIDE: Required and provided

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

2,600 feet

CAVE CONDITION:

Wet

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

4-5 hours

MORE

INFORMATION:

Lake Ozark Grotto
Route 1 Box 130
Lohman, MO 65053
Phone (573) 782-3560

TUNNEL CAVE & BAT CAVES

PULASKI COUNTY

CAVE HIGHLIGHTS: These two are large very neat caves. Since these are so large, the caving is relatively easy. Both of these caves are suitable for any skill level.

TYPICAL ANIMALS: Bats, salamanders, and frogs

WATER SOURCE: Yes

NEAREST CAMPING FACILITY: At Cave mouth or 1 mile away

CAVE GUIDE: Preferred and available

TYPE OF CAVE

Wild

LENGTH OF CAVE:

Not Given

CAVE CONDITION:

Not Specified

***TYPICAL
EXPLORATION***

TIME:

1 Weekend

MORE

INFORMATION:

Ozark Underground Lab
Protom, MO 65733
Phone (417) 785-4289
Contact KC Grotto
President at
president@kcgrotto.org
www.kcgrotto.org

UNDERGROUND LAB

PROGRAM FEATURES:

This program teaches the basics of spelunking including cave conservation and safety. It also demonstrates basic caving techniques necessary for a successful caving trip. In addition to the training, an excursion to a local wild cave is included. This is a two-day course normally held on a weekend. Kindly give at least a 30-day advance notice.

The Kansas City Area Grotto of the Missouri Speleological Society **REQUIRES** that all Scout units who wish to have the Kansas City Grotto assist them in any caving outing, complete this course before calling the Grotto Director. The Kansas City Grotto would be delighted to present programs to your unit at meetings and take you on a cave trip, but **ONLY** after your troop participates in the Underground Laboratory.

Don't let this excellent Cave Training opportunity pass!

COMMERCIAL CAVE LISTINGS

BEAR CAVE – Highway 5 North, Lake Road 5-88, Camdenton, MO 65020, (816) 346-2676. Rustic lantern tour of cave combined with nature trail overlooking Lake of the Ozarks. Visit unusual Chamber of the Ruins inside Bear Cave. Tickets available April through October at Bridal Cave.

BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS – US Forest, PO Box 1, Mountain View, AR 72560, (501) 757-2211. Developed and operated by the US Forest Service. Magnificent well-decorated “living” cave. Guided tours cover two (2) miles of paved, lighted trails. Exhibit hall and movie at the Visitors Center are complimentary.

BLUFF DWELLERS’ CAVE – Route 2, Box 229, Noel, MO 64854, (417) 475-3666. A natural living cave that sheltered a primitive Indian civilization. Cave offers a good variety of dripstone, “Musical Chimes”, “Coral”, and includes Museum of Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Antiques.

BONNE TERRE MINE TOURS – Bonne Terre, MO. A walk-through history underground at world’s largest man-made cavern. See magnificent mine where miners dug with pick and shovel for over 100 years. See one of the world’s most spectacular scuba diving resorts. Surface and underground tours of historic mining equipment. Open year round – 9 AM to 5 PM.

BOONE CAVE – One (1) mile south of I-70 at Exit 115, 9 miles west of Columbia, MO. The most beautiful and natural entrance of any cave in the state. Picnic grounds adjacent to the Katy Trail, overlooking the Missouri River.

BRIDAL CAVE/THUNDER MOUNTAIN PARK – Highway 5 North of Camdenton, MO 65020, (573) 346-2676. Famous for massive onyx formations, natural colors, and underground wedding ceremonies. Unique gift shop, visitor’s center, and nature trails.

CAMERON CAVE – Highway 79, 1 mile south of Hannibal, MO, (816) 221-1656. A complex maze type cave with miles of interconnecting passages. Lantern tours offered in summer. Tickets available at Mark Twain Cave Visitors Center.

CATHEDRAL CAVE – Onondaga Cave State Park, Route 1, Box 15, Leasburg, MO 65535, (816) 245-6576. Tours are typically on weekend afternoons, Memorial Day through Labor Day, or by advance arrangement. Call ahead to confirm the tour schedule. This is a lantern tour which features cave wildlife and the unique features of Cathedral Cave, such as its large stromatolites. The tour lasts about 2 hours and covers about 1-mile round trip. Half of this distance is on the surface and half in the cave.

CIVIL WAR CAVE – Route 3, Box 28, Bentonville, AR, (501) 795-2406. This attraction is noted for beauty and historical significance. Used by Confederate troops in the Civil War. Cave contains 50-million year old rimstone formations over which flow 60,000 gallons of water. The cave is 58 degrees year round, electrically lighted, and state approved.

COSMIC CAVERN – Route 4, Box 392, Berryville, AR 72616, (501) 749-2298. Ozarks’ largest underground lake. No bottom or end has been found. Entertaining, educational guided tours. Rainbow trout live in lake. It is possible to see blind trout appear during tour.

CRYSTAL CAVERNS – Route 3, Cassville, MO 65625, (417) 847-4238. Located ½ mile north of Cassville on Business 37. Largest variety of formations in US including calcite ice, black stalactites and aragonite crystals. Massive display of oceanic fossils, rare crinoid head. Guided, lighted tours.

CRYSTAL CAVE – Five (5) miles north of I-44, Springfield, MO on Highway H, (417) 847-4238. Second oldest commercial cave that you walk through and enjoy the natural color and original state. Renowned for the Washington Monument, Helectite Room, fossil crinoids, and Indian symbols. Open daily.

FANTASTIC CAVERNS – Highway 13 North, Springfield, MO 65803, (816) 833-2010. “The cave you ride through”. A jeep drawn tram will take you on a tour of wonder and mystery. Fantastic Caverns has huge passageways and many outstanding formations.

FANTASY WORLD CAVERNS – Highway 54, ¼ mile west of Junction Highway 52, 7 miles east of Bagnell Dam, (816) 392-2115. Guided tours reveal Onyx Falls, Flowstone, Popcorn, Helectites, Petrified Algae, Indian Burials, and Large Underground Lake. Season is May through October, 7 days a week.

FISHERS CAVE – Meramec State Park, Sullivan, MO 63080, (816) 468-6072. Open April through October. Lantern tours, a wealth of calcite deposits including several very large columns, interesting cave wildlife are frequently found.

HONEY BRANCH CAVE AND RV PARK – HCR 66, Box 193, Sparta, MO 65753, (660) 683-3733. Located 10 miles east of Sparta on Highway 14, or 16 miles west of Ava on Highway 14. Guided cave tours, bed and breakfast, call for appointment for cabin rentals. Covered picnic tables, stocked fishing lake and hiking trails. Open March through October.

HURRICANE RIVER CAVE – Highway 65, Pindall, AR 72669, (501) 429-5200. One of the most spectacular Arkansas caves. Follow the trail of the saber tooth tiger along a prehistoric riverbed. Live springs, fascinating fossil beds, explicit living formations, and cathedral ceiling rooms.

JACOB’S CAVE – Route 2, Box 129, Versailles, MO 65084, (816) 378-4374. Sites of fascination, reflective pools, and sponge work, world’s largest geode, a complex variety of huge formations to delicate soda straws. Enhanced by indirect lighting, along ½ mile of level concrete walkways.

MARK TWAIN CAVE – Highway 79, 1 mile south of Hannibal, MO 63401, (816) 221-1656. Prominent in the stories of Mark Twain as cave where Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher were lost. Missouri’s first show cave. Now a US Natural Landmark.

MARVEL CAVE – Silver Dollar City, Marvel Cave Park, MO 65616, (660) 338-2611. Missouri’s deepest cave and a registered US Natural Landmark. Marvel Cave contains the “Cathedral Room” which is 20 stories high. Two cable trains return visitors to the surface from the cave’s deepest point.

MERAMEC CAVERNS – Stanton, MO 63079, (816) 468-3166. Jesse James’ hideout. Noted for grapelike clusters of “cave coral”, natural three-legged onyx table, and Famous Stage Curtains. First major cave discovery in America. First explored in 1720.

MYSTIC CAVERNS/CRYSTAL DOME – Located 9 miles south of Harrison, AR on scenic Highway 7, (501) 743-1739. Two beautiful caves to see. Guided tours leave every half-hour. Large formations. Open May through October.

ONONDAGA CAVE – Leasburg, MO 65535, (816) 245-6600. Seventy (70) miles west of St Louis. Giant lily pads, largest underground chamber known in Missouri. US National Natural Landmark considered to be one of America’s most beautiful caves.

ONYX CAVE PARK – Three (3) miles east of Eureka Springs on US Highway 62, 3 miles north on Onyx Cave Road. Headphone guide system means “no-wait” cave tour.

OZARK CAVERNS – Linn Creek, MO65052, (816) 346-2500. Part of the Lake of the Ozarks State Park, the tour features a ½ mile guided walk using hand-held lanterns. Located just off State Road A, about 8 miles from US 54.

OZARK WONDER CAVE – Four (4) miles north of Noel, MO, Route 2, Noel, MO 64854, (816) 475-3579. Seven natural rooms of beautiful onyx stalactites, columns, fossils and cave coral. Amazing sights include Madonna, Fairies Castle, Sept, Mom, Bottomless Pit and many others.

ROUND SPRING CAVERNS – PO Box 490, Van Buren, MO 63965, (660) 323-4236. Operated by National Park Service. Large cave well decorated with onyx formations. Lantern tours daily during summer months. Educational tours can be arranged with advance reservations, spring and fall.

TALKING ROCKS CAVERN – Two (2) miles south of Lakeview on Highway 13, (660) 338-8189. An unforgettable experience. Guided cave tours are dramatized through the artful animation of lighting and sound effects. Groups are welcome.

WAR EAGLE CAVERNS – Route 5, Box 748, Rogers, AR 72756, (501) 789-2909; ½ mile of Highway 12 between Eureka Springs and Rogers, Arkansas. Spectacular natural entrance. Variety of formations shown in a living cavern by well-informed guides.