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Message from the President Regarding the Coronavirus

NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL — Folks, the Coronavirus is sweeping the country and will put a great strain on our medical resources including many of our members that work in the health care industry. Health care professionals indicate that we must flatten the curve of infections, so we have enough resources for everyone.

We've recommended that physical grotto meetings as well as regional events be canceled for the foreseeable future and everyone to practice social distancing. Hosting online grotto meetings is a way to stay connected and to allow us to check up on our members. The Bexar Grotto held an online meeting on Monday (March 23) which went very well. The online option also lends itself to inviting visitors from across the country to participate or even present a program. I would also point folks to our excellent webinar and luminary series presentations on the NSS website. They can be downloaded and viewed by members or as a grotto presentation. If you would like to host a webinar, please send me an email at president@caves.org and we'll try and set it up.

We are asking folks to make sure they check up on their neighbors and friends and make sure everyone is staying healthy. The NSS is a membership organization but also a family. Please be kind and helpful during these trying times.

The Executive Committee is following the outbreak closely and we will make a recommendation to the board of governors soon regarding whether the NSS Convention in July will need to be cancelled or postponed.

Regarding caving during the pandemic. Please exercise caution related to social distancing and also special care related to taking risk. Remember, that cave lead will still be there in a few months. A cave accident may be difficult to respond to because of limited resources. Be careful out there. Of course, getting outdoors is a great way to help keep fit and get some fresh air.

For more information on the coronavirus, I would recommend the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. There are also a number of other good websites out there related to the virus.

Remember, this too, shall pass.

Geary Schindel,
President
National Speleological Society

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The National Speleological Society With more than 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 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 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.