

SMALL PARTY ASSISTED RESCUE

A technical seminar presented by the

Southeastern Region of the

NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

and the

Clock Tower Grotto

March 9 – 12, 2023

Little River Property (aka “TAG site”)

Menlo, GA



About the Seminar

This NCRC Small Party Assisted Rescue (SPAR) seminar is an intensive four-day introduction to cave rescue techniques that a party of six or fewer people can perform, using minimal gear that can be carried on caving trips. Topics covered in the class include preventing and preparing for common caving-related problems, basic medical skills, moving patients through obstacles, helping people who are stuck on rope, and building and operating haul and lower systems.

Students will need to study some material in advance so that the sessions reinforce and elaborate on existing information. Students will practice skills in a rope gym setting, and then will build on those skills at cliff and cave sites. The course will be demanding, with long days and evenings, but will provide participants with valuable skills that they can use to help themselves and others when they are needed most.

Entrance Skills Demonstration

For safety and class efficiency, students should already be competent and comfortable with knot-tying and vertical-caving skills. Before taking the course, students must successfully demonstrate the knot-tying and single-rope-technique (SRT) skills described in the [2023 TAG SPAR student preparation guide](#). *NOTE: for this course, students must demonstrate the NCRC Level 3 entrance SRT skills, which includes a knot pass in both directions.* We encourage students to contact an NCRC instructor to complete their skills demonstration prior to the class. We will also hold a skills demonstration session at the course site on March 8, 2023, between 6 and 9 pm.

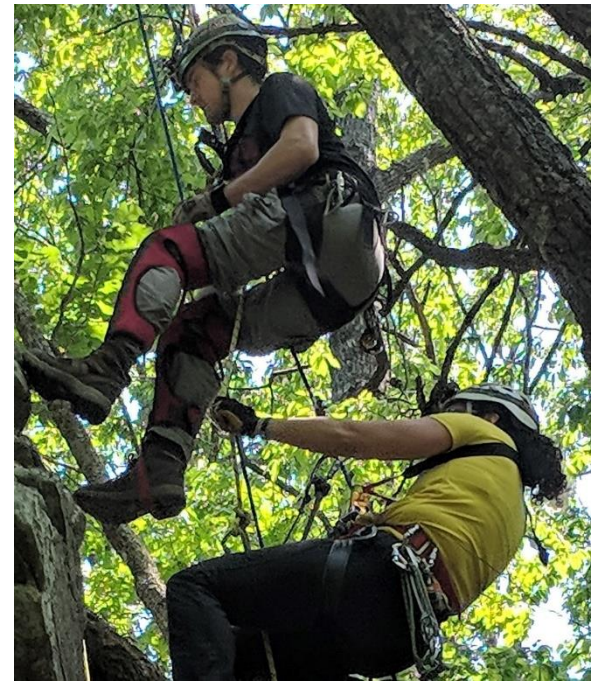


Photo courtesy of Rebecca Segrest

Pre-Registration and Registration

Class size is limited to 16 students. We will hold a five-day “pre-registration” period beginning on Dec 13, 2022. See <https://ctg.regfox.com/SPAR-2023-03>. We will select students from the pre-registered group of students by random drawing. If selected, you will be charged for the course; be sure to read the cancellation policy before pre-registering. Cost, which includes on-site camping and some meals, is \$220 for current NSS members; \$270 for non-NSS members. Non-NSS members may pre-register at the NSS member rate by first [joining or renewing NSS membership](#).

Schedule

Course sessions will start each day at 8:00 a.m. On Days 1 – 3, course sessions will continue after dinner. Day 4 will end around 4:00 p.m. Students should come prepared each day with food, water, and appropriate gear and clothing for classroom, rope gym, and cliff or cave activities. The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.

Please see next page for more information.

Small Party Assisted Rescue
Little River Property (“TAG Site”), Menlo, GA
March 9 – 12, 2023

Accommodations

The 160-acre Little River property, better known as the “TAG site” (the location of the annual TAG Fall Cave-In), will be our base camp. The street address for the property entrance is 2477 Old State Rd, in Menlo, GA. This will be our location for classroom and rope-gym sessions, group meals, and camping with showers.

Field Sites / Weather

This course will include field exercises at cliffs and caves in northwest Georgia. Daytime highs are likely to be in the 50s to 60s, with nighttime lows potentially near or below freezing. Come prepared for the possibility of rain. We encourage students to bring folding camp chairs for the classroom and rope gym sessions.



Pavilion at the Little River Property, Menlo, GA

Required Equipment for All Participants

(All gear must be clean and in good condition)

1. **HELMET.** A caving or climbing helmet is preferred. Must have a 3 or 4-point non-elastic chinstrap.
2. **LIGHTS.** Three dependable, helmet-mountable, and independent sources of light.
3. **RUGGED CLOTHING.** Cave suit optional. Must have insulating layers, and an outer protective layer.
4. **GLOVES.** Leather or rubber caving gloves.
5. **BOOTS.** Sturdy, lug-soled boots with good support. NO tennis shoes!
6. **FOOD.** Quick energy, ready to eat (trail mix, candy bars, cheese, etc.).
7. **WATER.** 2 liters minimum capacity.
8. **SMALL PACK.** Rugged enough for the cave environment.
9. **TWO CARABINERS.** Two extra locking carabiners that are not part of your SRT gear.
10. **WEBBING or ACCESSORY CORD.** 20+ feet long, at least 15 kN minimum breaking strength (MBS).
11. **SRT GEAR**
 - a. Commercially sewn seat harness.
 - b. Mechanical ascending system that includes:
 - at least two ascenders connected to the seat harness (either directly or with a cowstail/tether);
 - a second cowstail/tether connected to the seat harness, with a carabiner (non-locking OK) at the free end.
 - c. Descender connected to the seat harness - 4-bar micro-rack with hyperbar, bobbin with braking device, standard rappel rack, or Scarab-style device.
12. **RESCUE GEAR.** Any pulleys, Prusiks, or small rescue gear that you normally carry in your cave pack.

Questions?

For questions regarding **gear, prerequisites, or seminar material**, contact Casey England, casey.english@tcsar.org.
For questions regarding **registration or course logistics**, contact Ron Miller, ron@ronmiller.net.

About NCRC

The National Cave Rescue Commission is a commission of the National Speleological Society (NSS). It serves as NSS’s representative on issues of cave rescue training and operations. By design, NCRC is not an operating cave rescue team. Rather, its mission is to provide training and development opportunities for persons and organizations engaged in cave rescue activities.