

# Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) - 2 day Class



Presented by the

Central Region of the NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION  
in coordination with the Indiana Karst Conservancy

**May 18-19th, 2024**

Lawrence County Independent Schools (formerly Fayetteville Elem.)  
223 Old Farm Road, Bedford, IN 47421

## About the Seminar

Orientation to Cave Rescue is an awareness-level course providing introduction to topics critical to cave rescue operations. Topics covered include: cave environment, hypothermia, medical considerations, patient packaging, water problems, and patient/rescuer psychology. Elements of the Incident Command System, as it relates to cave rescue, will be discussed as well as: leadership/followership, logistics, communications, media interaction, search, and more. There will be both classroom and hands-on components on Saturday. On Sunday, students will participate in a mock cave rescue incident.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this class. This course is designed for anyone who has an interest in cave rescue operations and management. Recreational, project, and expedition cavers as well as agency-based emergency response personnel will benefit from the concepts presented during this class.

Persons under 18 years of age on the first day of the class are required to contact the seminar coordinator prior to April 27th to make special arrangements to attend if not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

## Registration Information

There are **30 spots** open for this class.

**Registration opens on April 1st @ 12:00 EDT**

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Thanks to the IKC and several generous donations, there are discounts available to IKC members and licensed first responders. The cost structure is as follows:

- \$65 - Full fee (no discounts)
- \$40 - NSS member (\$25 discount)
- \$40 - IKC member (\$25 discount)
- \$15 - NSS and IKC member (\$50 discount)
- \$0 - First Responder (\$65 discount)

*Depending on demand, some discounts may be limited.*



## **Additional Registration Info**

After submitting your information at the registration link above, you will be contacted via email to confirm your class spot and be given a link and instructions for payment. Membership discount qualifications will need to be verified so the confirmation email may take several days. Complete payment should be received by May 10th or your spot will be given to someone on the wait list. Refunds may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Primitive camping is available at the nearby Sullivan Cave Preserve for IKC members and their guests. To obtain permission, please contact the IKC Cave Patron to make arrangements [ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org)

## **Equipment Requirements**

No personal caving equipment will be provided by Central Region.

Students are required to have the following items available for inspection at check-in:

- UIAA- or CE-approved climbing helmet with a three or four-point suspension system with nonelastic chinstrap
- Three sources of light - At least two must be electric, one helmet-mounted and an additional source capable of being helmet-mounted while in the cave. All must be sufficient to allow safe exit from the cave. Carbide will NOT be allowed when working near patients or in close quarters with groups of people, but is acceptable for use in other conditions.
- Rugged clothing and sturdy, lugged-sole boots, gloves, and a small heavy-duty pack for carrying necessary personal gear underground.
- Water bottle (at least one quart) and high-energy snacks; you will burn more calories during cave operations than is typical during a similar period of time on the surface.

*Note: All cave gear/clothing must be cleaned in accordance with current local state or federal White Nose Syndrome decontamination standards, whichever is more stringent, before being allowed to enter the cave environment.*

## **Additional Recommended Equipment/Info**

- Kneepads/elbow pads
- 20' of 1" tubular webbing
- Plastic garbage bag (contractor size works best)
- Wrist watch to be worn underground (cell phones for time keeping aren't recommended)
- Paper/pencil for underground use (e.g. small notebook with golf pencil)
- Container(s) for in-cave personal waste collection
- Read: [A Guide to Responsible Caving \(from the NSS\)](#)



## **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. For more information visit [ncrc.info](http://ncrc.info)

### **Questions?**

Regarding **gear or seminar material**, contact Central Region Coordinator, Stephen Bishop [sbishop@caves.org](mailto:sbishop@caves.org)  
For questions regarding **registration or local logistics**, contact Laura Demarest [ldemarest@caves.org](mailto:ldemarest@caves.org)