

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



*Presented by the*

**Central Region of the NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION**

**August 24-25th, 2024**

Hamilton Valley Research Station

**177 Hamilton Valley Road, Cave City, KY 42127**

## **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. Students should expect to be in class from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM on Saturday and from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM on Sunday.

## **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)

## **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 regional coordinator prior to August 4th to make special arrangements to attend.

## **Registration Information**

There are **40 spots** open for this class.

Registration opens July 12th @ 12:00 EDT

[Click Here to REGISTER](#)

### **Registration Fee:**

- \$75 - Full Registration
- \$45 - NSS Members (\$30 discount)



## **Additional Registration Info**

After completing registration, you will receive an email confirming your spot in the class.

Refunds may be made on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.

Limited indoor bunk space and camping is available. See Lodging and Camping below for more details.

## **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 \(from the NSS\)](#)



## **Lodging and Camping**

The Hamilton Valley Research Station facility provides indoor bunk room housing for up to 40 people and ample tent camping space on the well-maintained grass around the facility. Restrooms are available for all utilizing the property and showers and kitchen facilities are available for those staying on the property overnight. A \$15.00 per person per night fee is required for anyone staying on the property overnight.

### **Bunk Rooms:**

Bunk rooms provide 4 bunks per room and will be filled first come first served. If you are traveling with a group, and wish to bunk with your group, please indicate this and list the name(s) of the person(s) you wish to lodge with. Groups of less than 3 persons may be roomed with another group or person(s).

### **Camping:**

Space to pitch a tent is available on the grounds surrounding the facility.

## **Meals**

Lunch on Saturday will be available at Hamilton Valley Research Station. More details will be available within the registration portal. All other meals are the responsibility of the participant.

## **Questions?**

Regarding **gear, seminar material, registration or local logistics** contact Central Region Coordinator, Stephen Bishop by e-mail at [sbishop@caves.org](mailto:sbishop@caves.org)